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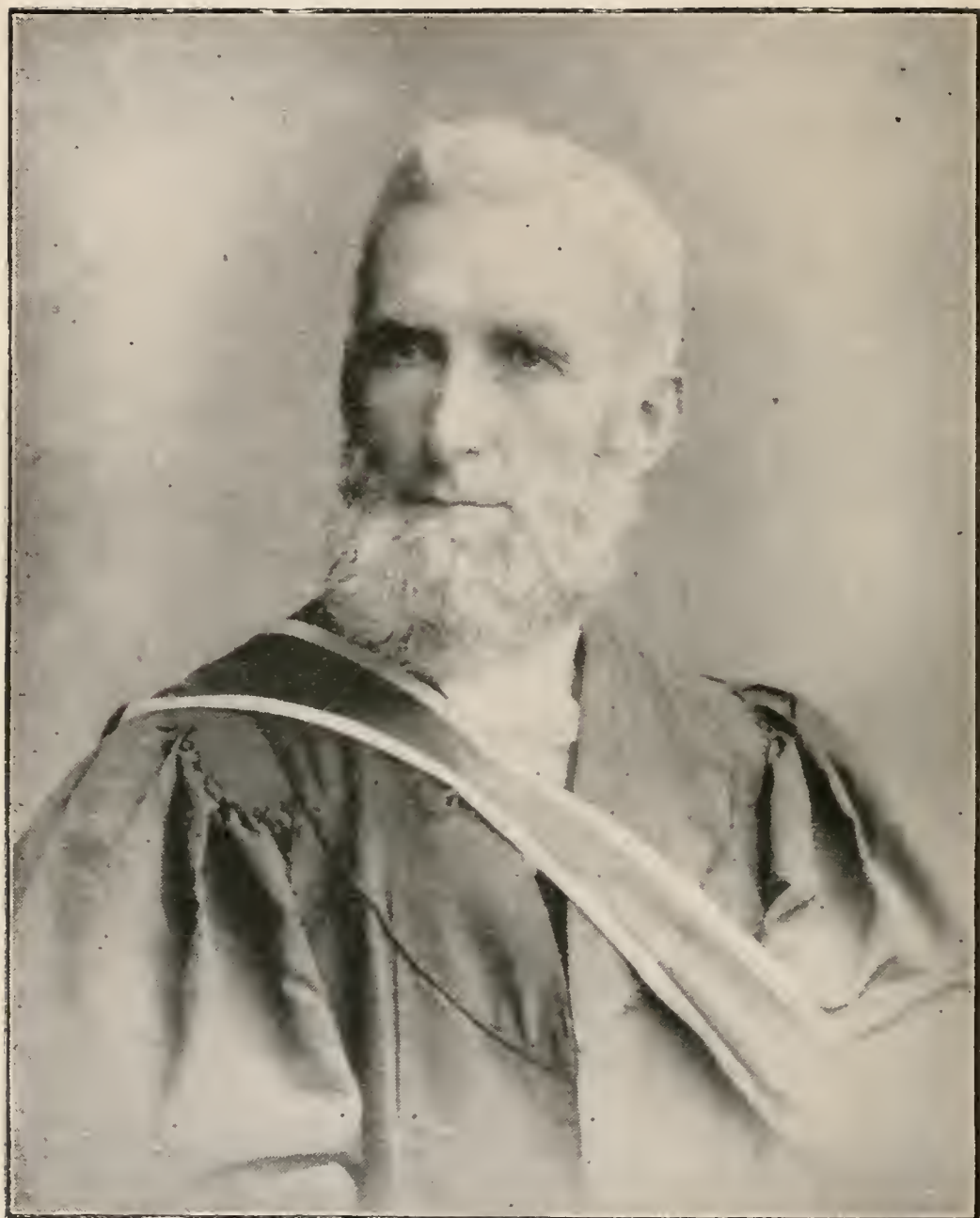


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THE HISTORY OF FETTERCAIRN.







Yours faithfully  
A. C. Cameron

d  
THE HISTORY

OF

FETTERCAIRN

A PARISH

IN THE

COUNTY OF KINCARDINE

BY

ARCH<sup>D</sup>. COWIE CAMERON, A.M., LL.D.,

LATE SCHOOLMASTER OF FETTERCAIRN.

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J. AND R. PARLANE, PAISLEY

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To

Friends in Fettercairn

AND

Old Pupils

NOW WIDELY SCATTERED,

AND TO THE

Memory of Friends and Pupils

NOW DEPARTED,

THESE PAGES

ARE GRATEFULLY AND RESPECTFULLY

Dedicated



## P R E F A C E.

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THE writing of this History of Fettercairn was first suggested to the author in 1882, after delivering a public lecture on the subject. He hesitated very much to take up the suggestion, from the fear that the task would prove too formidable for his time and resources; but on the other hand, from a sympathetic feeling towards all that concerned the past and the present of the parish, he resolved to proceed and do his best to collect and record in a permanent form such details as could be gathered from the various sources of information. Had the idea of collecting materials for such a work been entertained forty or forty-five years ago, the author could have given with greater fulness and accuracy a record of local history and traditionary incidents now forgotten, by committing to writing the recollections of old people living, many of whose traditionary tales have now escaped his memory.

While the indulgence of the reader is craved for errors detected or mistakes discovered, neither pains nor labour have been spared to make the History as full and correct as possible. The main object has been to preserve and

diffuse a knowledge of the history, antiquities, and traditions of the parish ; and it is hoped that the effort will be favourably received.

The author offers no apology for mixing up the narrative of events with anecdotes and with minute details of local matters which may appear of little interest to general readers, because the work has been prepared chiefly for the people of Fettercairn. He may be charged with trespassing on the parish of Fordoun by having included a general account of the Castle and lands of Kincardine ; but from their proximity to and connection with Fettercairn, no history of it could be otherwise complete.

Many persons besides those noticed in the body of the work have kindly helped with information ; but only a few can be specially mentioned, although all are gratefully remembered.

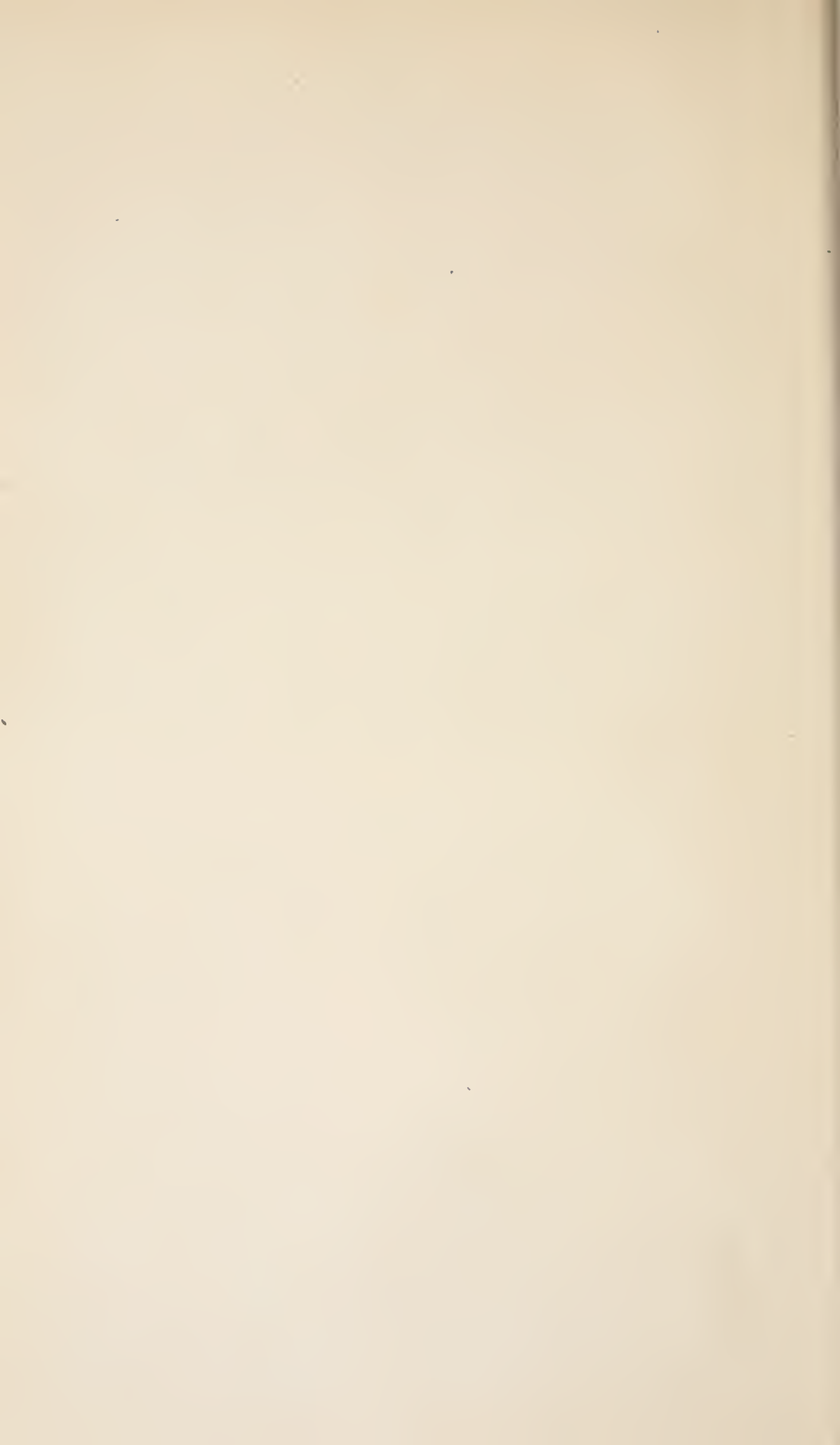
Thanks are due to Sir John R. Gladstone, Bart. of Fasque, not only for being the first to suggest the work, but for his interest in its progress ; also to his relative, Robert Gladstone, jun., Esq., Liverpool, for revisal of the notes on the Gladstone family. For the chapters on Church and School, the author is much indebted to the Rev. John Brown, Clerk to the Presbytery of Fordoun, for access to the Presbytery Records, and also to the Rev. William Anderson for taking extracts from the same. The more recent inscriptions in Fasque Chapel were kindly communicated by the Rev. Andrew H. Belcher ; several valuable documents were supplied by the Rev. James C. M'Clure ; searches in the Register House, Edinburgh, were made by the Rev. A. I. Ritchie ; and some interesting reminiscences

have been received from the Rev. John Falconer and from Mr David Prain, Fettercairn.

The following works, among others referred to in the book, have been consulted: Scott's *Ecclesiae Scoticae*; the works of Andrew Jervise, F.S.A.; History of the Carnegies; Biscoe's Earls of Middleton; Dr. Cramond's Annals of Fordoun; Dr. Marshall's Historic Scenes; Robertson's Index of Records and Charters; the Black-book of Kincardineshire; Spalding's "Memorials of the Troubles in Scotland"; the Exchequer Rolls of Scotland; and the Kincardineshire Retours.

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*June, 1899.*



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# PARISH AND VILLAGE OF FETTERCAIRN.

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## Part First.

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### INTRODUCTORY.

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#### CHAPTER I.

##### GEOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL FEATURES.

THE Parish of Fettercairn forms the extreme western division of Kincardineshire, and lies along the south side of the eastern Grampians or Binnchinnin hills. Its level and low-lying southern interior forms a considerable portion of the Howe of the Mearns. Its utmost length from north to south is  $8\frac{3}{8}$  miles: the breadth from east to west varies from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  furlongs to  $4\frac{5}{8}$  miles; making an area of about  $21\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, or 13,803 acres, of which about 128 are public roads and 75 water. The detached part of Edzell Parish on the Kincardineshire side of the North Esk river, recently annexed to Fettercairn under the provisions of the Local Government Act (1891), is between its extreme points from north to south 2 miles, from east to west  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles; making an additional area of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  square miles, or 1120 acres.

The Parish is bounded on the north-west and north by Strachan ; on the north-east and east by Fordoun ; on the south-east by Marykirk ; and on the south and west respectively by Stracathro and Edzell in the county of Forfar. The North Esk forms this boundary ; and that on the east or Fordoun side is formed by the Garrol burn, which rises in the Hound Hillock (1698 ft.), and joined at Bogmill by the confluent Crichie and Balnakettle burns, enters Marykirk Parish, in its course to the Luther, at the south-east corner of Lady Jane's wood.

The Parish may be shortly described as one-half hilly and one-half level, extensively wooded, and three-eighths cultivated. At the southern border, near Capo, we have the lowest lying part of the parish, the elevation being about 120 feet above sea level ; at Dalladies it is 150 ; on a contour line joining Arnhall, Bogmuir and Whins, 200 ; The Burn House, Fettercairn Village Cross and Fettercairn House, 235 ; Fasque House, Balnakettle and Kirkton of Balfour, 400 ; the top of Barna, 420 ; Mains of Balfour and Upper Thainston, 500 ; the Bannock or Balnakettle Hill, 1000 ; and the watershed along the hill ridge, about 1700.

The geological peculiarities of the Parish and district may be learned by observing the strata in the channel of the North Esk and its tributaries, an interesting account of which was drawn up by the late Colonel Imrie, who resided for a few years at Arnhall, and published the same at length in vol. 6 of the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He noted that the various strata were cut across at right angles by the river ; and being thus laid bare, were exhibited to the observer in a kind of irregular stratification, with almost all the varieties in one form or other, either regularly separated or combined in mixed masses. "In that part of the plains of Kincardineshire from which I take my departure," says Colonel Imrie, "the native rock consists of siliceous grit or sandstone, which is



here divided into an immense number of beds or layers of various thicknesses, from one inch to four feet of solid stone. In many places gravel of various sizes is found imbedded in this grit, which gravel consists mostly of water-worn quartz and small-grained granites. The colour of the general mass of this grit is a dark-reddish brown, and in some few places it shows narrow lines and dots of a pearl-gray colour. . . . This rock, in the plain, is perfectly horizontal in its position ; but upon its approach towards the undulated grounds, which here form the lowest basis of the Grampians, it begins to rise from its horizontal bed, and, gradually increasing in its acclivity *towards the mountains*, it at last arrives at a position perfectly vertical."

The rest of Colonel Imrie's account may be summarised by stating that contiguous to this grit is a bed of Whin not very compact in texture, but somewhat earthy and of a brownish-black colour. Passing this bed, Gravelstone or Plum-pudding rock, four hundred yards thick, stretches from east to west in a vertical position. Its composition consists of quartz, porphyries, and some small-grained granites, rounded by attrition in water, and very various in size, from that of a pea to the bulk of an ostrich egg, and all firmly combined by an argillaceous and ferruginous cement, reddish in colour. The next rock is Porphyry, of a purple or lilac-brown colour. In it are embedded particles of quartz, felspar, blackish-brown mica, and specks of iron-ochre. This part of the river bed occupies a space of two hundred and twenty yards. It is succeeded by a mass of different materials, of confused stratification, comprising a narrow layer of greenish-gray argillite, another of whin, and a seam of pale-blue limestone. Jaspers of a blood-red colour occur here, standing upright in the argillite. They are of great hardness, and take on a high polish.

Specimens of many of the above-named rocks are also

observable in the beds of the Balnakettle burn, Dalally and Garrol burns. In the banks of the Balnakettle burn porcelain clay of a bluish-white colour is found, with which, in former times, before the days of pipeclay, the Fettercairn housewives used to brighten their hearthstones and doorsteps. Asbestos or stone-flax has been found on the hill of Balnakettle, and upon an upper field of the farm. Large quantities of a substance considered to be native iron used to be found. It occurred in loose and detached pieces from 4 oz. to 2 lbs. in weight, which were turned up occasionally by the plough, and converted into use by heating and hammering in the smithies of the neighbourhood. The supply was soon exhausted, but small pieces in a corroded state are still to be found.

The origin of this metallic substance has never been sufficiently accounted for, although many and varied were the attempts. By some it was considered to be a mass of exploded fragments of the moon; by others, the sweepings of a smithy. It may have been meteoric; but that it did not originate in the subsoil, was inferred from its being unlike ordinary ironstone in its composition. Others again believed it to be a kind of coarse iron imperfectly fused, brought from Dalbog in the Parish of Edzell, where iron ore had been found and worked in the early years of the eighteenth century.

## CHAPTER II.

TOPOGRAPHY—ANTIQUITY OF VILLAGE—  
ETYMOLOGY OF NAME.

THE lands of Fasque, Thaneston, Balnakettle, and Balfour, extending along the base of the Grampians, are fertile and productive, even more so than some of those portions of the parish lying further down on the level plain. They are richly wooded; and their undulations, lying well to the sun, add much to the picturesqueness of the landscape. The lands around Fettercairn village are also very fertile and well wooded. The disastrous gales of 1892 and 1893 demolished the woods of Fettercairn, Fasque, and The Burn to a sad extent. No one now living can possibly see them again as they once were in their majestic loveliness.

On the estates of Balmain and Drumhendry the soil is partly rich and fertile, but to a greater extent poor and moorish. Large tracts of alluvial soil and of a stiff, brownish clay occur. The estates of Dalladies, Arnhall, and The Burn, on the banks of the North Esk, consist for the most part of thin and shallow soils, but are very susceptible of cultivation. The woods of The Burn are extensive and valuable.

On the lower reaches of Balbegno estate, the farms of the Straths and the contiguous portions of Arnhall, a deep mossy soil prevails. Down to a very recent period the greater part of these lands was under water, and formed a



vast extent of lake or morass with numerous creeks and bays. But this has now almost entirely disappeared.

The improvement by drainage of this region will be afterwards noticed. The only remaining portion now goes by the name of the *Esslie Moss*. It covers about 100 acres, and is still undrained, being the deepest part of the original lake. Lying at a lower level than its surroundings, it seems destined to remain an unprofitable and unwholesome swamp, affecting the sanitary condition of the immediate neighbourhood.

The lower lying ground immediately adjoining the village on the S.W. and S. sides was probably in part an undrained swamp. But drainage works a marvellous change on such lands, and these are now capable of producing rich crops to the agriculturist. In former days the hill burns were not so well confined to their channels as now, and when in their courses they flowed over flat ground, they spread over the whole territory in times of flood, as those who have experienced flooding in these later days can quite well understand.

To the undrained expanse of Fettercairn Parish may be applied the remark of some Laurencekirk wiseacre given in Fraser's History of that Parish, viz., that "a hundred years ago the deucks were quackin' a' the wâÿ frae Blackiemuir to Redmyre." If Arnhall and Landsend be substituted for these two places, the space between them down to a late period was all good quacking-ground for "deucks" and other water fowls.

Mr Fraser also notices that, according to tradition, the inhabitants of that marshy district were for centuries subject to ague; and to escape its effects they betook themselves to temporary abodes in the more elevated parts of the parish, and on the adjoining lands of Garvock. Whether the inhabitants of the Fettercairn marshy grounds ever resorted to the same expedient is not known;



but that they did so is very probable. At all events, their case was very similar; only, that for elevated habitations they had ample room on the hillsides of their own parish.<sup>1</sup>

In the days when might was right, when "the key did not keep the castle nor the bracken bush the cow," bogs and lakes served a purpose. They constituted natural barriers of defence. Of old, the only secure dwellings were erected upon islands and other inaccessible sites in order to be out of the easy reach of enemies and intruders. The *crannogs* or lake-island dwellings of ancient times (one of which remains at the Loch of Leys, near Banchory) stood upon artificial islets formed to supply the want of natural island sites.

The earliest church buildings, such as those of Cowie, Dunnottar, Kinghornie, and St. Cyrus were founded upon elevated spots surrounded more or less by water. This may be sufficient to account for the situation of Fettercairn village, unless we let our fancy wander and assert that, like the Grecian island Delos of old, it arose out of the water. In modern days it has flourished by the manufacture of a beverage much stronger than cold water.

According to the old chroniclers, "The Towne of Fethyrkerne" in history existed nine hundred years ago, ranking in antiquity with either Brechin or Dunnottar; and it undoubtedly had its original foundation under the shadow of "Fenella's Castell of Fethircarne, the chiefest fortress of all the Mearns." Some writers maintain that Fenella's Castle was at Kincardine, and others that the Green Castle, or rather camp above Mill of Kincardine, was its site; but the weight of opinion is greatly in favour of Greencairn. Both Greencairn and Kincardine were water-guarded fortalices, of whose origin and early occupation no record exists. These two names, however, are modern, not

<sup>1</sup> The popular name of the ague so prevalent in former times was the "loupin gout."

being mentioned by the ancient chroniclers. The former was also called *Cairngreen*, a Celtic word meaning the Sunny Hill or favoured spot, suitable for a royal residence. Cairnton is still the name of the adjoining farm and homestead, which in recent lease missives was designated as *Cairnton* and *Cairngreen*. The *Cairn* being retained in the name of Fettercairn suggests, independently of other reasons, that the site of the "Towne" or village in its primitive fashion stood along the north side of the knoll of Greencairn, rather than at Kincardine or the Green Castle. And although the inhabitants around the old place are now very few, it was otherwise in ancient times. The locality was thickly peopled even down to the early decades of the present century. Besides the families of the principal tenants on the lands of Thornyhill, Cairnton and Balbegno, the writer has heard old people relate that on these lands they counted eighty or ninety "reekin' lums" (smoking chimneys), whereas at the present time they do not far exceed one-tenth of that number.

That the ancient "Towne" may have extended in straggling form towards the site of the modern village is highly probable, from the fact that down to a comparatively recent period houses and holdings were thickly dotted over the fertile fields that now form the landscape. The town of Kincardine, of which not a house remains, extended a half mile in length between its East and West Ports, from the Castle to near Fettercairn House; and as late as the end of last century it had as many as seventy or eighty inhabitants. Upon the decay and extinction of the older Fettercairn on the one hand, and of Kincardine on the other, it may be said that the modern village, like a "sweet Auburn," has flourished. After the erection of Balbegno Castle and its occupation by the Woods, as the Thanes and Bailliaries of Fettercairn, the village on its west side was restricted to its present boundary. And following the

superiority of the Woods of Balbegno, which terminated in the seventeenth century, John Earl Middleton, as proprietor of the lands and mansion of Fettercairn on the east side, became the superior, and the village was erected into a Burgh of Barony. Again, on the south, the Ramsays of Balmain—whose oldest mansion stood, not, as some suppose, on the Hill of Esslie, but on the rising ground to the east of Balmain farmstead—made their power and authority to be felt for good. And, on the north side, when Fasque became their residence, a cordon of wholesome influence encircled the village and promoted its prosperity. And down to the present day, under the benign sway of successive owners and superiors, the same advantages have been enjoyed and justly appreciated. Other places have envied Fettercairn; and at a time not long past, the query used to be put, that if Kincardineshire could boast of only four Baronets, why should three of them be located as proprietors in the Parish of Fettercairn? A native wag gave as the answer, “Because Sir Alexander Ramsay of Balmain, Sir John Stuart Forbes of Fettercairn, and Sir Thomas Gladstone of Fasque, have mair sense than the Deeside man.”

The parish was so named from the group of dwellings or “towne”; for the division of Scotland into parishes was not made till the time of King David “the sair saint to the crown,” about the year 1130. The oldest form of the name as written by Wyntoun, Prior of Lochleven, the rhyming chronicler who gives us the story of Fenella and the murder of Kenneth III., is “Fethyrkerne.” This term is descriptive of the hillocks and prominent heights lying between the village and Fenella’s castle of Greencairn. Some authorities maintain that “Fotherkern” was the original name. The oldest forms of Fordoun and Dunnottar were conversely Fotherdun and Dunfother, in Celtic the promontory hills or headlands. The *Fother* elided into



*For* occurs all over Scotland. *Fothra* or *Fodra* was the actual name of a homestead on the prominent brae face above the lake of Fasque. The beautiful lake of Fasque, twenty acres in extent, formed in the early thirties by the late Sir John Gladstone, covers the marshy ground formerly known as the "Bogs of Fodra." "*Foderance*" is the name of a place in the parish of Kettins; and we have *Fotheringham*, near Forfar. "*Fidra*" or "*Fetheray*" is a rocky basaltic islet on the coast of Haddington. "*Fethirale*" is the name of a croft near Dundee; and we have "*Fetter*" in *Fetteresso*, *Fetterangus*, *Fetternear*, &c.

A rather fanciful etymology of *Fettercairn* is given by the late Rev. Robert Foote, in the *Old Statistical Account of Scotland*, as follows: "*Fetter* signifies a pass, and there are two large cairns at the top of the mountain and many small ones lower down, near to which, according to tradition, a great battle was fought, from which it is probable that the district got its name." The tradition referred to by Mr Foote has not reached our day, and we have no record remaining of any particular battle. It may have been one of Wallace's encounters with the English before his overthrow of them at *Dunnottar*, or that of Bruce's victory of the Comyn at the foot of *Glenesk*, to be afterwards noted in connection with *Newdosk*.

On the whole, Mr Foote's derivation is unscientific, because there can be no manner of doubt that the present name *Fettercairn* is a corruption of the older name *Fether*, or *Fotherkerne*; and here, as in many other instances throughout Scotland that can be cited, the local pronunciation follows the older name.

It may further be stated with regard to the name that there have been no fewer than twenty different forms of the word, as written at successive periods from the tenth century down to the present time. They are, with approximate dates, as follows:—

In the tenth century it was Fotherkern or Fethyrkerne, according to the old chroniclers. In the fourteenth century, Fothercardine, Fottercardine, and Fetherkern. In the fifteenth, Fethyrcarne, Fetterkarne, Fethirkerne, Feddirkairn, and Feddirkeyrn. In the sixteenth, Fethircarn, Fethercarne, Fethirkern, Fethircairne, and Fethircarny. In the seventeenth and eighteenth, Fettercarden, Fettercarne, Fettercairne, Fattercairne, Fetterkairn, and, lastly, the present modern form, Fettercairn. So many old variations of spelling probably rest upon nothing else than the arbitrary fancy of each writer, at a time when there was less writing done, and when words and place-names were practically unwritten. Sir Herbert Maxwell, in his "Scottish Land Names," gives a similar instance of twenty-five different spellings of "Galloway." From these desultory remarks it may be inferred that *Fother*, *Fether* or *Fetter* means the jutting ridge or ridges, and *cairn* the hill upon which stood Fenella's castle.

The aggregate number of farms, crofts, and homesteads, old and new, within the bounds of the parish, is about 114. A list of local place-names, with the meanings of such as are Celtic, will be given in another chapter.

## CHAPTER III.

## POPULATION.

OF the population, the first authentic account was given by Dr Webster in 1755, who made it 1950 souls; but according to Mr Garden's statement it was in 1774 only 1500. In the old statistical account of the parish by the Rev. Robert Foote, he states it as 2000 in 1791. By the first Government census in 1801 it was 1794, and by the next, in 1811, it was only 1562. Hence it appears that in the twenty years from 1791 to 1811 a great decrease of population took place, viz., from 2000 to 1562. The first two or three years of the century were years of dearth; food and provisions were at a ransom. Oatmeal was sold at 4s. a peck, or 64s. per boll. Many of the people were reduced to beggary, and scores of poor people were relieved by the Kirk Session. Those dear times no doubt tended to reduce the population, which however must have been abnormally high in the earlier years of the period, when Lord Adam Gordon employed a large number of workmen on The Burn estate at the building of The Burn House, the trenching of the surrounding moorland, the planting of his woods, the formation of roads, and of the beautiful walks along the rocky banks of the river. The following table shows the total population of the parish, and the number residing in the village, according to the census returns from 1821 to 1891 inclusive:—

	1821	1831	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891
Total Population	1573	1637	1794	1741	1700	1539	1503	1376
In the Village	...	...	320	330	385	391	398	358





From the foregoing, it may be noticed that in the fourth decade of the century there is a marked and irregular increase of 157 in the population, raising the total to what it was in 1801. To account for this increase, only one cause can be assigned, viz., that during these years, on the estate and policies of Fasque, extensive improvements, the formation of the lake and other important works, giving employment to many additional labourers, were carried on by the late Sir John Gladstone upon his newly acquired property. Sir John had made Fasque his principal family residence, and a large accession of servants and employees increased the population.

In the Balfour and Newdosk section, now disjoined from Edzell and annexed to Fettercairn, the census of 1801 gave 107 souls, and in 1891 only 45; which, if added to the above 1376, makes the total population 1421. In the above enumerations of the village, Leith, West Burnside, and the Free Church manse are included. At this date (1899) there remain of the 1741 people in 1851 only about 4 males and 7 females in the village; and about 17 males and 19 females in the country district of the parish. Of every 100 persons in 1801, 46 were males and 54 females; in 1831, 47 were males and 53 females; and much the same proportions appear to hold till 1861, when the males were to the females as 48 to 52; in 1871, 48·5 to 51·5; in 1881, 49·1 to 50·9; and in 1891, 50·75 to 49·25. These figures indicate a steady increase of males and a corresponding decrease of females, which may be accounted for by the gradual change that has taken place in the conditions of agricultural employment. Owing to the introduction of improved machinery and implements for farm work, fewer women are now employed. In former times women for outdoor work were hired at the half-yearly term markets; but now the market hiring of women has ceased and they are engaged only for domestic service,



either near home or in the neighbouring towns; while not a few have gone to work in mills and manufactories. If the relative numbers of males and females in the village, with the 21 males and 27 females in the hamlet of Old Mains at last census, be omitted from the above calculations, it will be found that in the rural parts of the parish the percentage of males to females is as 53·6 to 46·4. And it may be taken for granted that the same changes are taking place in other rural parishes. For the forty years (1855-95) during which the writer was Registrar, the highest number of births in a year was 62 and the lowest 37; of deaths, 37 and 10; and of marriages, 16 and 5.

The following table contains a summary of statistics brought out by the census of the parish (excluding Newdosk) in 1891, which may be of use to future Registrars and enumerators:—

Enumerators' Divisions.	Inhabited House.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rooms with one or more windows.
1. Fettercairn Village, including Leith, &c. - -	80	158	200	358	320
2. Fasque and the Thainstones	65	162	146	308	368
3. Balnakettle, Balfour and The Burn - - -	34	82	72	154	163
4. Balbegno Estate, Meikle and Little Strath - -	25	52	48	100	100
5. Arnhall Estate - - -	37	76	79	155	153
6. Dalladies and Drumhendry	30	78	45	123	102
7. Balmain and Bogmuir, &c.	31	91	87	178	117
Totals - - -	302	699	677	1376	1323

The most striking fact in the foregoing table is that in the Dalladies and Drumhendry division, a purely farming district, the males are 78 and the females 45—a fact which proves so far that females, as above stated, are less and less required for farm labour.

Mr Foote, in his Statistical Account (written a hundred years ago), gives the numbers employed in certain trades, and these are presumed to include journeymen and apprentices as well as masters, and are as follows:—Handloom weavers, 50; shoemakers, 25; tailors, 16; wrights, 18; blacksmiths, 10; and millers, 10. There are now no handloom weavers: John Caithness, who died a few years ago, was the last; the shoemakers are only three or four; the tailors also three or four; the blacksmiths have not decreased; and the millers are only one-half the former number. Mr Foote states the number of tenant farmers as 170; the number now is about 60, of whom at least seven are tradesmen with crofts or small holdings.

Of the male population employed as farm servants, about 105 are householders, and from 15 to 20 are young men lodged for the most part in farm bothies. The number of male heads of households in other callings and trades is about 115. The manufactures in the parish are few and not very important. The largest is that of Fettercairn Distillery at Nethermill, which employs ten or twelve men. It was founded in 1824 by a company, with the late James Durie as manager, who, after a time, acquired the concern, and carried it on successfully till his death in 1854. His son David succeeded, and extended the business till October, 1889, when the premises were destroyed by fire. From its well-known quality the genuine “Fettercairn” commanded the highest price in the home and foreign markets. In 1891 a joint-stock company renewed the buildings, fitting them with machinery and apparatus capable of greatly increased production.

For thirty years previous to 1875 a successful pork-curing business was carried on by the late James Dakers, and since then, with the exception of a small woollen factory at Arnhall and a freestone quarry at Caldcotes on the estate of Fasque, the chief sources of employment are to be found in agricultural pursuits. In former times the parish contained five or six inns or ale-houses, of which the Ramsay Arms Hotel, the Forbes Arms Hotel, and the Red Lion Inn were in the village. The only one now remaining is the Ramsay Arms, owned and enlarged by the Edzell Hotel Company.

## Part Second.

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# HISTORICAL EVENTS.

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## CHAPTER IV.

### HISTORY PRIOR TO 994 A.D.

**I**T may be premised that in the olden time the Howe of the Mearns, like other parts of Scotland, was the scene of many stirring events not recorded in history. But it is a fact supported by eminent authorities, and amongst these by the late Bishop Forbes of Brechin, that few districts in Scotland have been to a greater degree in times of yore the scenes of battle and bloodshed than the neighbourhood of Fettercairn. If it be said that from Stirling Castle one can view twelve battlefields, it is not too much to say that from the loopholes of Fettercairn Church spire the half at least of that number can be viewed ; though of course it is not claimed that the battles referred to rank in importance with those of Stirlingshire. The locality was on the direct route, from south to north, followed by the early invaders, and the Palace of Kincardine was doubtless a resting-place for royal excursions and military expeditions. The earliest invasions of which we have any record were those of the Roman armies in the first three centuries of the Christian



era, during which our rude ancestors had many conflicts with the Roman soldiers. Of the twenty-one tribes which peopled Scotland at the time of Agricola's invasion (84 A.D.), the Venricones inhabited the parts now called Angus and Mearns.

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The Roman armies forced their way northwards along the vale of Strathmore, the Howe of the Mearns, and through Aberdeenshire to the Moray Firth. On their route from the Tay to the Dee, we have at intervals of every twelve miles, or a day's march, the remains of their camps, at Coupar-Angus, Cardean near Meigle, Forfar, Battledykes or Finhaven, Blackdykes or Keithock, Fordoun, Raedykes or Fetteresso, and Normandykes or Peterculter. The late Professor Stewart of Aberdeen, and some other antiquarians, contended that the great battle of Mons Grampius (84 A.D.) was fought at Raedykes.

The native Britons had their defensive encampments on Caterthun, on the heights of Greencairn, the Hunter's hill, and at the Green Castle camp above Mill of Kincardine. There can be no doubt as to the serious nature of their engagements with the Roman troops, since we read that the Emperor Severus, in 209 A.D., lost 50,000 soldiers in the north-east of Scotland. We may safely assume that a certain proportion of this host must have fallen within the bounds of the Mearns; because no doubt every inch of their progress would be disputed by the natives, who were probably as much "men" as the inhabitants of the present day.

The Castle of Greencairn is supposed to have been the seat and stronghold of the Maormor or Earl of the Mearns, it being one of the ten districts into which, in the tenth century, the part of Scotland lying north of the Forth was divided. The Earldom of the Mearns comprehended the territory lying between the North Esk and the Dee, or what now forms the County of Kincardine. The term

Maormor, literally *Great Officer*, was the Celtic title of honour conferred upon the chief or civil ruler of a district. His power was such that he could not be deposed by the king, and he governed very much by the laws which he himself enacted. This led to frequent broils and open hostility ; and in the Mearns alone led to the death of three kings of Scotland. Malcolm I. was defeated and slain, in 953, at Fetteresso, by Moray men ; Kenneth III. was assassinated in 994, at Fettercairn, by the Lady Finella, wife of the Maormor ; and Duncan II., in 1094, at Duncan's Shade, Mondynes, Fordoun, by Maolpeder, Maormor of the Mearns.

From the fourth century when the Romans withdrew from North Britain, up to the end of the tenth century, when, in 994, Fenella appears on the scene, very little is known of current events. The Picts inhabited the north and east of Scotland, and engaged in a battle at Dunnichen in 685 A.D., in which they, probably men of Angus and Mearns led by Nechtan their chief, defeated the Northumbrians, and slew Egbrid their king. With this exception no other event worthy of notice is recorded in history.

Underground caves, however, artificially constructed, are said to have been discovered in a few places within the county, and these may have been Picts' houses. One or two of these were believed to be of interminable length, into which persons in later times entered, but, sad to relate, never returned. The old people of Fettercairn had a tradition that a subterranean passage extended from Balbegno Castle to the House of Balmain, but the boggy nature of the ground between the two places precludes the possibility. If passage or cave existed at all, it could only be a Pict's house on the higher and drier slopes of Balbegno.

The first authentic event connected with Fettercairn is the assassination of Kenneth III. in 994. If, according to the old chroniclers, the place was then a "towne," its



beginning must have been at a date ever so much earlier. By way of introduction to the story of Kenneth's tragic death, a short account of his previous history and of relative incidents may be given. He was the son of Malcolm I., king of Scotland. He did not succeed his father, his right being usurped by Indulph the son of a former king. Strict succession in those days was not always maintained, and other two kings followed in order before Kenneth ascended the throne in A.D. 970. As a king he cherished a deep sense of his duties, and undertook with a high hand to tame his rebellious subjects and reform their manners. These reforms involved the death of not a few of his nobles; but he persevered and so far succeeded in accomplishing his purpose. In 980 A.D. a host of Danish invaders landed at Montrose and wrecked the town. In his defeat of the Danes at Luncarty, the legend bears that he was assisted by a ploughman and his sons, the reputed ancestors of the Hays of Errol. With their help, having driven off these invaders, Kenneth and his people enjoyed peace and prosperity. But after a time trouble and disorder arose in the Mearns, which led in the end to the death of Kenneth. Hollinshead, the English chronicler, relates that Cruthlint, "One of the chiefest lords of the Mearns, was son unto a certain ladie named Fenella, the daughter of one named Cruthneth, that was governor of the part of Angus which lieth betwixt the two rivers, the Southeske and the Northeske. Cruthlint chanced to come unto the Castell of Delbogin to see his grandfather, the said Cruthneth, where, upon light occasion, a fraie (quarrel) was begun among the serving men, in the which two of Cruthlint's servants fortun'd to be slaine." The chronicler details at great length that Cruthlint complained to his grandfather, who took the part of his own servants and answered him reproachfully. Whereupon his grandfather's men fell upon

him and beat him so much that his life was in danger. He however escaped, and at the instigation of his mother, Fenella, "in the Castell of Fethircarne," he gathered together secretly a band of Mearns men and made a night attack upon the Castle of Dalbog, slew the inmates, carried off the spoil, and divided the same among his followers. Next day he forayed the district and returned with great booty. The men of Angus assembled themselves and invaded the Mearns. After a series of skirmishes, involving much slaughter and destruction of property on both sides, the king was informed of the mischief, and forthwith, by proclamation, ordered the culpable leaders, upon pain of death, to appear within fifteen days at Scone to answer for their conduct. Few appeared, and Cruthlint and other leaders fled to the fastnesses of the Highlands. Kenneth was sorely moved, and resolved to pursue and punish these rebellious subjects. They were captured in Lochaber and brought to the Castle of Dunsinane, where Cruthlint and the chief rebels were executed. Their common followers were pardoned, and for this the king was greatly praised; but, for her son's death, Fenella cherished towards him a deadly hatred. To secure the succession to the crown in his own family, he conceived the idea of getting rid by poison of his nephew Malcolm, whom the nobles preferred. He secretly accomplished his wicked purpose; but remorse of conscience and the constant terror of detection troubled him so much that he could not rest, and to ease his mind he humbly confessed to his bishop, who counselled him to do penance at the shrine of St. Palladius at Fordoun; and it was when on his way thither that he is supposed to have met his death at the hands of Fenella. He lodged at the "Castell of Fethercarne, where there was a forest full of all manner of wild beasts that were to be had in anie part of Albion." Fenella, concealing her deadly intention, gave him a hearty reception. Within her castle she had a tower constructed,

“covered with copper” and fitted inside with rich furnishings. “Behind the same were crossbowes set ready bent, with sharp querrels in them,” and in the middle a brazen image resembling the figure of the king, holding in one hand a golden apple, so artfully devised that, if any one took hold of it, the crossbows would discharge their querrels upon him with great force. Fenella, then, after meat, invited Kenneth into the chamber. He admired its rich hangings and furniture, and asked what the image signified. Fenella answered that it represented his person, and that she intended the golden apple set with precious stones to be a gift for him; at the same time courteously and smilingly requesting him to accept the present and take it in his hand. To avoid danger to herself, she artfully drew aside, but the king no sooner took hold of the apple than the crossbows discharged their querrels into his body, and he fell mortally wounded, and when after a short time his servants forced their way, they found him lying dead on the floor. Hollinshead farther relates that Fenella took horse and fled from her pursuers, and that by the help of Constantine, Kenneth’s successor, she escaped and landed in Ireland. The tradition still current in the Mearns bears that she fled across the Howe and over the hill of Garvock, concealing herself in the tree tops, and when overtaken by her pursuers at the deep rocky gorge of Lauriston, St. Cyrus, called after her “Den Fenella,” where the stream forms a picturesque waterfall a hundred feet high,

“She leapt from the rocks to a wild boiling pool,  
Where her body was torn and toss’d.”

Buchanan and other historians deem all this story a fable, though asserted by John Major and Hector Boece, and think it more probable that the king, when engaged in hunting the deer, the wolf, the badger and the boar in the pleasant and shady groves near Fettercairn, was slain



in an ambush prepared by Fenella. Local tradition asserts that the freestone slab in St. Palladius Chapel, curiously sculptured with the figures of armed horsemen and animals of the chase, commemorates the death of Kenneth. Referring to this event, Skene, in his *Celtic Alban*, quotes from a Pictish Chronicle that Kenneth was slain at the foot of the Grampians, or Monedh so called; the event being thus described:—

“He will bend his steps, no neighbourly act  
To Magsliabh at the great Monedh;  
The Gael will shout around his head;  
His death was the end of it.”

The story as related by Wyntoun in book vi. of his Rhyming Chronicle is, in his original style, as follows:—

“To this Kyng Culen dede,  
Malcolmys sowne the Kyng Kynede  
Wes oure the Scottis in Scotland  
Twenty yhere and foure regnand.  
The Erle of Angus in hys dayis  
Conquhare calld, the story sayis,  
Had a dochtyre Fynbella calld,  
The quhilk had a sone yhong and bold;  
At Dwnsynane this Kyned  
The Kyng put this man to dede.  
Fra thine hys modyr had ay in thowcht  
To ger this kyng to dede be browcht;  
And for scho cowth noucht do, that be mycht,  
Scho made thame traytowrys by hyr slycht,  
That, the kyng befor them wend  
For his lele legis hade bene kend.  
As throw the Mernys on a day  
The kyng was rydand his hey way,  
Off hys awyne curt al suddanly  
Agayne hym ras a cumpany  
In to the towne off Fethyrkerne;  
To fecht wyth hym thai ware sa yherne,

And he agayne thame faucht sa fast ;  
 But he thare slayne was at the last,  
 And off this mak and rehers  
 Owth hym wryttyn ar thire wers ;  
*Post quem rex fertur Scotis regnasse Kynedus*  
*Malcomi natus quatuor et deca bis.*  
*Iste Fethyrkerne telis fit et arte peremptus*  
*Nate Cuncari Fimbel fraude cadens."*

Of this verse the following is a literal translation : And after him (Culene) Kenneth, the son of Malcolm, is said to have reigned over the Scots four and twenty (years). He, by artfulness and deadly weapons, was slain at Fettercairn, falling by the guile of Fenella, the daughter of Cunkuhar.

Some historians maintain that Kincardine Castle and not Greencairn was the residence of Fenella, and that she was captured, taken back to her castle and burned together with the building. Kenneth's body was carried to Iona, "a far cry" in those days, and buried with other kings and nobles. His subjects deeply lamented his untimely death, and in Perthshire, where he defeated and drove off the Danish invaders, the very name of Fettercairn became a byword and a reproach.



## CHAPTER V.

## HISTORY FROM 994 TO 1600.

THE next important event in chronological order is the death of Duncan II., in 1094, at Mondynes, in the parish of Fordoun. He fell by the hands of Maolpeder, the Maormor of the Mearns, whose trainband would largely consist of men from his headquarters at Fettercairn. In the subsequent century, the events which affected Fettercairn were the attack in 1107 of Morayshire and Mearns rebels upon Alexander I. in his castle of Hurley Hawkin, near Invergowrie, and in 1130 the defeat and slaughter at Stracathro of the Earl of Moray and his followers by David I. After him the way across the river at Capo is said to have got its name—the King's Ford. In the twelfth century, William the Lion occupied Kincardine Castle, and to it were attached all the offices common to a royal household of the period. His first hawksman or falconer was progenitor of the noble family of Kintore, and the constable of the castle (a Carnegie), so far as is known, was that of the noble house of Southesk. In the thirteenth century, Alexander III. resided occasionally at Kincardine. On his northward journey King Edward I. visited "Kyncardyn en Mernes Meynor" on the 11th July, 1296, and again, on returning southward, on the 4th August following. With him were 30,000 foot soldiers and 5000 mailed and mounted men-at-arms. These royal processions, in conjunction with John Baliol's resignation of the

Scottish crown, must have caused no small stir in and around Fettercairn. In 1297 Wallace and a trusty band of followers overran the country, and especially Angus and Mearns, driving along and slaying the Southrons that Edward had left to garrison the castles, until on the rock of Dunnottar, where 4000 of their number took refuge, they were beaten with fire and sword or driven into the sea. Blind Harry's account runs thus:—

In plain battail throuhout the Mernyss they ride,  
The Inglismen that durst them nocht abide,  
Befor the host full fear'dly furth they flee  
Until Dwnotter a swape within the sea.

Wallace brynt the kyrk and all that was tharin,  
Atour the rock the lave ran with great din,  
Some hung on crags ryght dolfally to dee,  
Some lap, some fell, some floteryt in the sea.

On a conquering tour through Scotland in 1303, Edward and his forces besieged Brechin Castle, and on the march to Aberdeen they passed through Fettercairn. Although history and tradition now fail to give any detailed account of those troublous times, yet one or two local place-names so far supply some information. On a gentle slope of the hill, along the left bank of Balnakettle burn, and about a mile north-west of Upper Thainston farmstead, may be seen a grassy spot bearing slight traces of remote cultivation. Its name, *Ballyvernie*, now almost forgotten, means *The town of strife or war*. At some distance westward are two hollows, one of which has been known as *Englishman's den*, and the other as *Scotchman's den*.<sup>1</sup> These local designa-

<sup>1</sup> On a summer afternoon in 1857, some three or four Fettercairn gentlemen led by a worthy old Celtic antiquarian, William M'Donald Cotton of Thainston, went with picks and spades to explore one or two of the Ballyvernie small mounds that looked like the tumuli of a battle-field. But no remains of any kind other than black earth were found.

tions point to the wars of the Scottish Independence, and evidently to the conflict of Bruce and Comyn Earl of Buchan, on the 25th December, 1307, when Bruce and his army were retiring southward from Inverness.

Buchanan's account is, "That when Bruce was come to the forest through which the river Esk falls down into the plains of Merns, Comyn overtook him at a place called Glenesk." If this encounter took place, not at the head of the glen as some maintain, but at the foot, it must be admitted that Ballyvernie, though considerably eastward on the hillside, was the scene of the conflict. It is not improbable that Bruce, in gratitude for his victory, made additional grants to the Knights of St. John at Newdosk in the vicinity. From a time unknown it belonged to them, and formed a part of the Regality of Torphichen. Newdosk, or Neudos, is a Celtic word meaning either *The Holy Shelter* or *A gift to Heaven*.

In 1341, David II. and Joanna his queen, on their return from France, landed at Bervie and visited Kincardine and Fettercairn. The marriage of his sister Margaret to William Earl of Sutherland, took place at Kincardine, and she received a grant of the lands of Fettercairn. Robert II. held Courts and Juries in the palace, and charters from it were dated 1371, 1375, and 1383.

In May, 1452, Alexander, the fourth Earl of Crawford, the Tiger Earl or "Earl Beardie," collected his forces to avenge the assassination of Douglas in Stirling Castle by James II., and tried to intercept the Earl of Huntly and the royalist forces at the foot of the Cairn o' Mount. But, by Huntly's eluding him, Fettercairn and its vicinity escaped being the scene of the bloody and disastrous encounter which took place at Harecairn, on Huntly hill of Stracathro, where Crawford was defeated.

James IV. and Margaret his queen, when on their way to and from Aberdeen, lodged several times at the castle of



Kincardine ; and once, in 1507 (if the story can be credited), he rode in a single day from Stirling, by Perth and Aberdeen, to Elgin, galloping hurriedly past Fettercairn and other places. In 1511, Queen Margaret made a more leisurely journey to Aberdeen, when, by order of the magistrates, the streets of the city were cleared of “middings and swine’s cruives” for her reception. In 1504, the king, favouring Adam Hepburn of Craggis (Inglismaldie) for his good service, and likewise to suit the lieges crossing the Cairn o’ Mount, erected the Kirkton of Fethircarn belonging to the said Adam and his wife, Elizabeth Ogston, into a free burgh, with a market cross, a weekly market, and a public fair annually on the first of August, or the feast of St. Peter. This license was renewed to John Earl Middleton, in 1670. From a subsequent charter to the burgesses of Montrose, it appears that wool, skins, hides, salmon, and other merchandise, were sold at the Fettercairn markets. In 1532, James V. granted a charter to the fourth Earl Marischal to make Kincardine town the capital of the county, which it continued to be till 1607. How this affected Fettercairn is not recorded. Queen Mary, journeying northwards, and accompanied by her nobles, attendants, and men-at-arms, to quell the Huntly rebellion, reached Edzell Castle on the 25th of August, 1562, and proceeded next day through Fettercairn to Aberdeen. James VI. paid visits to Aberdeen in 1582, 1589, 1592, 1594, and 1600, going and returning on some, if not all, of these occasions by Fettercairn and Kincardine..

## CHAPTER VI.

## HISTORY FROM 1600 TO 1698.

**D**URING the troublous times of the Covenant in the first half of the seventeenth century, Fettercairn did not escape the evils that overtook the country. Being on the highway and direct line of route from south to north, the contending armies and parties left traces of themselves and their movements. From Memorials of the time written by John Spalding, Commissary Clerk and Diarist of Aberdeen, the following statements and extracts may be quoted. "In January, 1635, Mr John Spottiswood, Archbishop of St. Andrews, was made Chancellor of Scotland, and his son President. Whereupon the Marquis of Huntly being rejected, moved South by short stages. Satterday, he got to Fettercarne where he was stormsted Sonday, Mounonday, and Tuysday. Left for Brechine, sex myllis on Wedensday. In March, 1639, a meeting was proposed anent covenanting troubles between the earl of Argyle and his good-brother, the Marquis of Huntly at Brechine or Fettercarne, but said to be not held. August 22nd, 1639: the body of John Menzies, son of the late Provost of Aberdeen, drowned riding throw the North water, was conveyed with mournful procession to Aberdeen." The Marquis of Montrose, whose erratic marches, sudden victories and strange coursing over Scotland, read like a romance of history, made his presence felt in no place more



than in Fettercairn. As an ardent covenanter, the Committee of the Tables gave him the command of their forces. On the 12th of February, 1639, he rode with a chosen company of two hundred men through Fettercairn and over the Cairn o' Mount to support a meeting of covenanters at Turriff. And along with the Earl Marischal of Dunnottar and Captain John Middleton (afterwards Earl Middleton of Fettercairn) at the head of the Mearns men, they fought on the 19th June, 1639, at the Bridge of Dee, and compelled the people of Aberdeen to sign the Covenant. On the 11th July, 1640, Captain Middleton, with eighty soldiers, marched from Fettercairn, or from Caldham (his father's house and lands) to Aberdeen, "to compel the band to subscribe for the Earl Marischal." In 1644, after Montrose had turned royalist, he marched his troops up and down over Scotland, and in the autumn of that year passed twice through Fettercairn. His forces, made up of Highland clans and Irish auxiliaries,<sup>1</sup> put to flight the Covenanting army at Aberdeen, pillaged the city and slew the people. Many of the covenanters who fled took refuge in the Mearns. The Earl of Argyle raised a regiment to oppose Montrose, and, according to Spalding, they landed with their wives at Old Aberdeen. And to make up for small pay, or no pay, they plundered the country. At Drum, some 800 of them were paid 4000 merks to get them off, and they took the heich (high) road south. Their wives were sent by the citizens to overtake their husbands at Fettercarne, and they, in Aberdeen, thought themselves well quite (quit) of this rascal regiment. But what an amount of suffering all this entailed upon the helpless inhabitants of Fettercairn, subjected to the pillage

<sup>1</sup> In this connection it is interesting to note that Alexander, the son of Coll M'Donnell, "Colkitto" (Coll-the-left-handed) of the noble house of Antrim, was the brave leader of this Irish band, because the Lady Jane Grey Trefusis, now of Fettercairn, is a daughter of the late Mark M'Donnell, fifth Earl of Antrim.

and plundering invasion of a wild, lawless, and hungry army of 800 men with wives and followers.

After the defeat of the Earl of Argyle, at Inverlochy, on 2nd February, 1645, the Marquis of Montrose, with an additional number of Highland chiefs and their followers, reached Aberdeen, and marching southward, pillaged and burnt Stonehaven, Cowie, the estates and lands of the Earl Marischal, who took refuge in the Castle of Dunnottar, the lands of Drumlithie and Arbuthnott, as well as the Howe of the Mearns which was left "black with fire and red with blood," amidst the tears and lamentations of the wretched inhabitants. As described by Spalding:

"Montrose cumis to Fettercairn upon Frydday, the 22nd day of Marche, quarteris his foot army, and sendis out quarter-mesteris to quarter sum trooperis in the countrie and about the broughe of Montroiss. But General-Major Hurry, lying in ambush within the planting of Halkertoun by (without) their knowledge, issues out suddantlie with ane gryte crye and ane schout upone thir trouperis, who returnit back to Montroiss' camp shortlie. But how soon Hurry sees thame, he takes intill ane uther buss hard besyd, but he is rousit out and routit throw the North Watter, who fled gryter skaith than he gave to Livetenant-Major Baillie lying nar hand with his army. Montroiss' trooperis returnis back to the camp, quhair Mr James Strathauchin's<sup>1</sup> houss in Fettercarne was brynt."

"Montrois stayit at Fettercane Frydday, Satterday, Sondag, and marchis therefra upon Monnonday, the 25th of Marche (1645), to Brechine with his foot army. . . . Marche was very windie, heiche and outrageous, whereoff

<sup>1</sup> Although not stated by Spalding, James Strathauchin or Strachan was the proprietor, and not the minister of Fettercairn, as supposed by Jervise, Fraser, and others. The minister was a David Strachan, also connected with the Strachans of Thornton, who from time to time had grants, the last of these in 1637, of the lands of Fettercairn and Kincardine.

the lyke was never seen heir." During the stay of Montrose and his troops, they laid waste the neighbouring lands, and killed the aged father of General Middleton as he sat in his chair in the Castle of Caldhame.

It would appear from Spalding's account that, soon after the departure of Montrose and his troops, General Baillie and the covenanting army returned from some counter-marchings beyond Brechin, and on the 11th of April passed through Fettercairn on the route to Aberdeen. Accompanied by several nobles and barons, and marching round by Strathbogie, they plundered the cattle and goods of all loyal to the king; and turning south through Atholl, "he syne merchis throw the heids (hillsides) to Kirriemure, Fettercarne, and upon Setterday, 10th May, cums and campis in the Birss, plunderin the countrie wherer he goes, eiting the grein growin cornes, scairss cum to the bleid, with their horsis. He had above 2000 foot and sax score trouperis." Five years later, in 1650, the people of Fettercairn saw the great and high-handed Montrose sadly humbled, after his betrayal by Macleod of Assynt, being led along, as we read, bound hand and foot with straw ropes, on horseback, to his execution in Edinburgh.

In the end of the same year another procession, but of a different character, passed through Fettercairn. The Earl of Errol journeyed from Slains Castle to Scone, where he had to officiate as Lord High Constable of Scotland at the coronation of Charles II., on the 1st of January, 1651. They arrived at Fettercairn on the 26th of December, and lodged there for the night. In a Household Book of the Errol family, the following record of discharge occurs:

"For supper and breakfast at Fettercarne in

Harie Balfour's,	...	...	...	£7	0	0	(11/8 stg.)
For corn and stra for 7 horse, one night there,	5	4	0	(8/8).			
To the servants in drink money,	...	0	8	0	(8d)."		

The whole amount of the bill being 21/ stg. The earl and



his train (an Express of the period) took four days to do the journey, about 110 miles. The stages were Muchalls, Fettercairn, Forfar, and Scone. A modern Express would cover the distance in less than three hours.

In 1651 the Castle of Edzell was occupied by Cromwell's troops, and the parish register records that for two months, October and November, "there was no sermon in the church, the English army having scattered the people of God to gather corn and forage for their horses." The lands of Fettercairn had, no doubt, to bear their share of this forage. But here it may be noted that Cromwell confirmed by a precept, dated at Edinburgh in 1657, to Andrew Wood, the lands of Balbegno and the thanedom of Fettercairn.

Towards the end of the month of May, 1685, a company of wretched prisoners, barefooted and with hands bound behind their backs, were driven like sheep along the highway which has been already referred to as traversing the lower parts of the parish from west to east. The unhappy company of covenanters, numbering altogether about 167 men and women, were in charge of a band of rude soldiers, who were under orders of the Privy Council to convey them from the prisons of the south and west of Scotland to the Castle of Dunnottar. Throughout the long and wearisome journey no shelter by day or by night was provided for the prisoners, and during the last night there raged a pitiless storm of wind and rain. A halt was called at the North Water Bridge, built in a previous age by the famous reformer, John Erskine of Dun, and within the parapet walls of the bridge the unhappy company were huddled together, whilst a few of the soldiers kept guard at either end.

Another event, worthy of being narrated, took place in the following year at Fettercairn. On Sunday, 29th July, 1686, a Mr William Burnett, who by purchase had acquired

the lands of Balfour, collected all his tenants, thirty-three in number, and took forcible possession of the whole seats in the church, which belonged to the estate of Balfour, including a "laigh dask," sold in 1632 by Alexander Straton of Lauriston and Balfour to the first Earl of Southesk. The contest took place between Burnett and Robert the third Earl, to whom, in 1673, the Stratons sold the patronage of the church. For his intrusive act, Burnett was fined by the Privy Council.

Still another Sunday morning event, and also at the church, falls in the order of time to be noticed. Mr Hercules Skinner, minister of Fettercairn, died in January, 1698. His assistant, Mr David Clark, son of William Clark in Nethermill, eagerly desired to be appointed successor. His friends and relations, however, proceeded in a very questionable way to secure the desired object. On Sunday, 13th February, Mr Francis Melville, minister of Arbuthnott, came by order of the Presbytery to preach the church vacant. He was grievously assailed by Mr Clark and some sixteen persons, whose names and doings, as detailed in a report of their trial at the Sheriff Court, are given in another chapter. "They beat Mr Francis and blooded him with stones, rent his clothes, kept up the keys of the kirk door in proud and manifest contempt of the laws of the kingdom."



## CHAPTER VII.

## HISTORY FROM 1698 TO 1747.

LESS than a quarter of a century ago there stood, on what is now a vacant piece of ground near the N.E. side of the kirkyard, an ancient-looking clay-built and thatched biggin', whose quaintly finished timbers, patched up from time to time, finally collapsed under the ravages of natural decay. It had served its day and generation; first, as the hostelry or principal inn of the village; next, as an ordinary dwelling house; and, last of all, as the cooperage of a thriving pork-curing establishment (which ceased to be when the owner, the late lamented Mr Dakers, went the way of all flesh). It was said to have afforded a night's lodging to the "Bonnie Prince Charlie"; but as he never came by way of the Mearns, his name must have been through time confounded with that of his father, the old Pretender, or James VIII., who landed at Peterhead on the 22nd December, 1715, arrived at Fetteresso on the 24th, and staying there a week with the Earl Marischal, left for Brechin and the south, either on the 1st or 2nd of January, 1716. If on the 1st, as some state, he took two days to reach Brechin, and lodged for the night at Fettercairn. That he did is supported only by tradition; and the probability is that, in course of time, the story of the night's lodging, as already noticed, of the Earl of Errol and his retinue on their way to the coronation of Charles II. came to be told in connection with Charles the Pretender.

A knoll in a field east of Fettercairn village has for the last century and a half borne the name of "Randal's Knap." The hillock with its name, to succeeding generations of youngsters in the village, has been more or less a source of fear; but on one day of the year, one of joy, for the rolling of their Easter eggs down its steep sides. Of fear, because of the weird tale, that upon it Randal was hanged. What name it bore before that event nobody knows. Probably the *Mod* or Court-hill and the heading-hill of the barony in the olden time. Randal Courtney, an Irish soldier, residing in Luthermuir, broke into the "stane hoose o' Cadam,"<sup>1</sup> and stole a watch and other articles. He was caught in a weaving cellar, which is still to the fore, at the "Townhead" of Fettercairn, tried before the Justiciary Court on 6th August, 1743, and sentenced to be hanged at Fettercairn on the 21st September following. The *Scots Magazine* gives this account of the trial:

"That the fact as deponed to by his accomplice, Robert Sutor, for whom a remission was obtained in order to his being made an evidence, and whose testimony was supported by Mr Keith's man, maidservants, and other evidences, was, that Courtney had for some months before invited him (Sutor) to take part in searching for a sum of money that lay hid in the Muir near Fettercairn; that having the night of 7th April last been prevailed on to accompany Courtney, they went together till they came near the house of Mr Keith of Caldham, where Courtney then told him the money lay; that Courtney, having made a rope of straw, got upon the garden dyke, from thence upon the brewhouse, and ascending the mansion house, fixed his rope to the chimney and got down into the kitchen, and opened the door let in the deponent; that after fastening the doors of the bed where the two maidservants lay, they bound the manservant, and throwing him into the bed behind his master, ordered the gentleman to deliver what money, &c. he had; that the gentleman gave Courtney what gold he had in his breeches; but Courtney, not content, ordered the deponent

<sup>1</sup> George Keith's, who built the bridge of Caldham, in 1744, and left a sum of money for its upkeep and for the poor of Marykirk.

to go and heat the tongs, in order to put the gentleman's ears into them and extort the rest of his money from him ; that the gentleman thereupon gave them the keys of his repositories and assisted them to open the same ; that Courtney carried off what money and gold was therein, and locking the gentleman and servant up, went down stairs and plundered the house of bed and table-linen, and that the deponent's dividend of the spulzie was only £18 sterling. Sic Subscribitur—ROBERT SUTOR."

The wright that made Randal's gallows was a worthy man, Alexander Croll, tenant of Kirkhill, alias "Kirky Croll" ; but the popular odium, incurred by his doing this piece of work, won for him and his son after him the nickname of "Pin the Wuddie"—the wuddie being the withe or wand in place of a rope. The watch which Randal stole was a remarkable piece of mechanism. It was duly restored to the laird of Caldham, and became afterwards the property of the Rev. James Beattie, minister of Maryton, from whom it was also stolen, and was again the means of identifying the thief. It now belongs to Mr David Watson in Ireland, brother of the late John Watson, Banker, Laurencekirk.

In March, 1746, the Duke of Cumberland despatched 300 of his troops, under the command of a refugee French Officer, to occupy Edzell Castle and burn the houses and homesteads of all who had gone to join the Pretender, as well as to disarm all rebels left in Glenesk and the other glens of Forfarshire. The Fettercairn people were generally loyal to the House of Hanover and gave no occasion for such a visitation. This will be seen from one or two subsequent incidents which fall to be narrated. After the defeat of the rebels at Culloden, not a few of them fled in the direction of the Mearns, coming down over the Cairn o' Mount and molesting the peacefully disposed inhabitants of Fettercairn. A number of the latter, acting in accordance with a proclamation of the Duke of Cumberland, and on the authority of the sheriff of the county, armed them-



selves as a guard to watch day and night, especially the Cairn road, and prevent the destruction of life and property. In the exercise of this duty, they were accused by Sir Alex. Ramsay and other Justices of the Peace in a meeting at Drumlithie, of too much zeal in the discharge of their duty, of complicity in a murder and a robbery that had been committed, but of which they did not directly accuse the guard. The Justices, however, sent an order against night watching under arms, to be read from the pulpits of Fettercairn and Fordoun Parish Churches. All this, like many other movements in troublous times, would not now be heard of but for a petition and complaint, of date 11th June, 1746, presented to the Presbytery of Fordoun. It was composed and written in rather quaint terms by James Bate, schoolmaster, and signed by him and others of the parties accused. The Presbytery received the Petition, approved of the loyalty and diligence of the complainers, and agreed to ask the Earl of Ancrum to present said petition to the Duke of Cumberland, and request him to take his own method of securing these hill passes and the peace of this corner of the country.

On the afternoon of the 12th of February, 1747, a gang of armed men from Brechin, five or six in number, made a raid upon the village of Fettercairn. Their leader was a desperate fellow of the name of Davidson, a keen Jacobite, evidently bent on revenge as well as robbery and plunder. Their first attack was made upon the house of the Rev. Anthony Dow, the minister, partly because he had acted a prominent part against the rebellion of 1745, and partly because he was no doubt the first man in the place worth robbing. The story bears that Mr Dow and his manservant very bravely defended themselves and their property; that, aided by some others, they took Davidson prisoner; but that he was soon rescued by his men, who did the good Mr Dow "a deal of mischief." Their next



attack was upon the schoolhouse, which then stood on the ground, now a garden, behind the farm steading of Kirkhill ; but whether the schoolmaster (Mr James Bate) defended as bravely as the minister, is not known. It is however well known that, in the skirmish, the schoolhouse was burnt down, but whether accidentally or by design of the assailants, cannot now be determined. According to one account they wanted to get at the names and birth entries of certain individuals in the Kirk Session Records kept by the schoolmaster. According to another account they wanted the very opposite, viz., to burn the house and destroy the records. If this was their purpose they succeeded, inasmuch as the books of the forty years from 1682 to 1722 are now amissing ; while portions of subsequent volumes, now bound together, but with the leaves half consumed, show that they were plucked out of the burning. Shortly after this event the same lawless band committed a similar offence at Durris by breaking into the manse and carrying off some valuable effects. But in the following year Davidson, their chief, was taken and brought to trial, executed, and hung in chains at Aberdeen.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## HISTORY FROM 1747 TO 1861.

FROM the middle of the eighteenth century down to the first year of Queen Victoria's reign (1837) there are no parochial events of much importance on record. Any noteworthy incidents which did occur are such as can be treated, along with relative subjects, in another part of this book. But on the occasion of the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Victoria on the 28th June, 1838, the villagers of Fettercairn, like those of more recent days, were not behind in their manifestations of loyalty. Under the heading of "Fettercairn," a local correspondent of the *Montrose Standard* writes as follows:—

"Our little village was not behind in the general rejoicing on Thursday last. Although we did not follow in the wake of some of the neighbouring towns, in *founding* public buildings, the day was employed in *pulling down* part of our church, to make way for a handsome steeple and additional church accommodation, about to be erected by the munificence of several of our public-spirited proprietors. A flag was displayed from the Forbes Arms Inn, and 'the artillery of Heaven' came very seasonably to supply the want of our ordnance department. A neat selection of fireworks, procured by subscription, was let off about ten o'clock p.m. from the Forbes Arms Inn, to the gratification of several hundreds who had by that time assembled in the village, and who afterwards retired to Fettercairn House to witness a similar display by the Lord of the Manor, Sir John Stuart Forbes, Bart., who supplied them with a bumper of *real Fettercairn* to pledge the health of 'our maiden Queen.' After three long and loud huzzas, the whole party broke up in perfect harmony and good order."

The cost of the steeple referred to was defrayed by Sir John Gladstone; and that of the addition to the church by him and the other two resident heritors, viz., Sir John S. Forbes, and Captain, afterwards Colonel, M'Inroy.

In 1847 gaslight was introduced into the village through the enterprise of two brothers, Alexander and David Ross, both blacksmiths, the one at the Burn, and the other at Stankeye. In 1852 the latter, with his family, emigrated to Australia, like many another in that year, and the works were offered for sale. Sir John S. Forbes and the leading householders of the village formed themselves into a joint-stock company with a capital of £250 in £1 shares. They paid £150 for the plant, and carried on the business with ordinary success. But after a few years, owing to the cost of necessary repairs, the high price of coal, and the consumpt of gas falling off on account of the cheapness of paraffin, and improvement of lamps, the concern had to be wound up with a call upon the shareholders, and the company dissolved in 1879.

The Burn and Fettercairn Curling Club, the oldest in the Mearns, was formed in 1848. All the resident proprietors who founded the club are now dead and gone; but they were keen, keen curlers, like as are now their successors. The Burn and Fettercairn ponds, as also the beautiful expanse of ice at Fasque lake, have on many a happy occasion been the scene of a well-contested bonspiel, and the joyous boom of the stones as they sped their way over the ice from crampit to tee could, on a quiet frosty day, be distinctly heard in the village of Fettercairn, although the lake at Fasque is more than a mile distant. Schoolboys—the curlers of the future—were all put on edge at the sound, for, so long as they did not cross the rink, had they not the privilege of skating and of learning from their seniors something of the mysteries of the



“roaring game” ? Then, too, on occasion, lady patronesses provided curlers’ fare, hot and toothsome, from their respective mansion-houses, and sometimes a share of the good things came the way of an enterprising boy.

In the long and frosty winter of 1880–1, Lord Clinton, then at Fettercairn House, was a keen player. His lordship wrote and composed a song, *Horo, Curlers!* and presented each member with a printed copy. At his own cost, he enlarged and improved the curling pond in Fettercairn House grounds. Of all the original members in 1848 only one survives, Mr David Prain, the unwearied secretary, who, as a leader of the game, has never been excelled. Of humorous incidents on the ice, one may be given: “Hollo! John, you’ve fallen through, up to the middle. Water enough; get out and run home for your whisky!”

In 1855, the Fettercairn District Subscription Library was instituted; and in the movement Lady Gladstone and the late Rev. Charles Aitken, incumbent at Fasque Chapel, took a leading part. It consisted at first of about 600 well-selected volumes. The old and disused libraries of the Parish Church and of the Farmers’ Club were added to it, and from time to time new works of importance. The library is now kept in the Reading Room of the Public Hall, and is open to readers once a week.

On the 28th of July, 1858, Miss Forbes of Fettercairn was married to her cousin, the Hon. Charles Trefusis, now Lord Clinton. The village was *en fête*. The people held holiday, and the school children were entertained by Sir John S. Forbes.

The Fettercairn Corps of the 4th Kincardine Rifle Volunteers was started in 1859. The movement was a popular one, and many parishioners of influence joined the local company. An excellent Rifle Range was found at Glenburnie. It was one of the best and safest in the country, and provided firing points up to 1000 yards.



## CHAPTER IX.

## HISTORY FROM 1861 TO 1898.

THE next event in order is one that will be long remembered. It was the visit *incognito* of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, and the late lamented Prince Consort, on the 20th of September, 1861. Accompanied by the late Princess Alice and her affianced husband, the Prince Louis of Hesse, the Lady Churchill, General Gray, and others of the suite, they set out on the morning of that day from Balmoral, crossed the shoulder and “ladder” of Mount Kean to Invermark Lodge to pay a visit to the late Fox Maule (Lord Dalhousie). In the afternoon they drove down Glenesk to Fettercairn. The rest of the journey, which in Her Majesty’s Journal is termed “The Second Great Expedition,” may best be described in her own words, as follows :

“A little further on, again (at the foot of Glenesk), we came to a wood, where we got out and walked along *The Burn*, Major M’Inroy’s. The path winds along through the wood, just above this most curious narrow gorge, which is unlike any of the other llynns; the rocks are very peculiar, and the burn very narrow, with deep pools completely overhung by wood. The woods and grounds might be in *Wales* or even in *Hawthornden*. We walked through the wood and a little way along the road till the carriages overtook us. We had three miles further to drive to *Fettercairn*, in all 40 miles from *Balmoral*. We came upon a flat country, evidently much cultivated, but it was too dark to see anything. At a quarter-past seven o’clock we reached the small, quiet town, or rather village of Fettercairn, for it was very small, not a creature stirring, and we got out at the quiet little inn, ‘Ramsay

Arms,' quite unobserved, and went at once upstairs. There was a very nice drawing-room, and next to it a dining-room, both very clean and tidy—then to the left, our bedroom, which was excessively small, but also very clean and neat, and much better furnished than at Grantown. Alice had a nice room, the same size as ours; then came a mere morsel of one (with a "press bed") in which Albert dressed; and then came Lady Churchill's bedroom just beyond. Louis and General Gray had rooms in an hotel called the 'Temperance Hotel,' opposite. We dined at eight, a very nice, clean, good dinner. Grant and Brown waited. They were rather nervous, but General Gray and Lady Churchill carved, and they had only to change the plates, which Brown soon got into the way of doing. A little girl of the house came in to help, but Grant turned her round to prevent her looking at us. The landlord and landlady knew who we were, but *no one else* except the coachman, and they kept the secret admirably. The evening being bright moonlight, and very still, we all went out, and walked through the village, where was a sort of pillar or town cross on steps, and Louis read, by the light of the moon, a proclamation for collections of charities which was stuck up on it. We walked on along a lane, a short way, hearing nothing whatever, not a leaf moving, but the distant barking of a dog! Suddenly, we heard a drum and fifes! We were greatly alarmed, fearing we had been recognised; but Louis and General Gray who went back, saw nothing whatever. Still, as we walked slowly back, we heard the noise from time to time; and, when we reached the inn door, we stopped, and saw six men march up with fifes and a drum (not a creature taking any notice of them) go down the street and back again. Grant and Brown were out, but had no idea what it could be. Albert asked the little maid, and the answer was, 'It's just a band,' and that it walked about in this way twice a week. How odd! It went on playing some time after we got home. We sat till half-past ten working and Albert reading, and then retired to rest. Saturday, September 21st. Got to sleep after two or three o'clock. The morning was dull and close and misty, with a little rain; hardly any one stirring, but a few people at their work. A traveller had arrived at night, and wanted to come up into the dining-room, which is the 'commercial travellers' room'; and they had difficulty in telling him he could not stop there. He joined Grant and Brown at their tea; and on his asking, 'What's the matter here?' Grant answered, 'It's a wedding party from *Aberdeen*.' At 'the Temperance Hotel' they were very anxious.

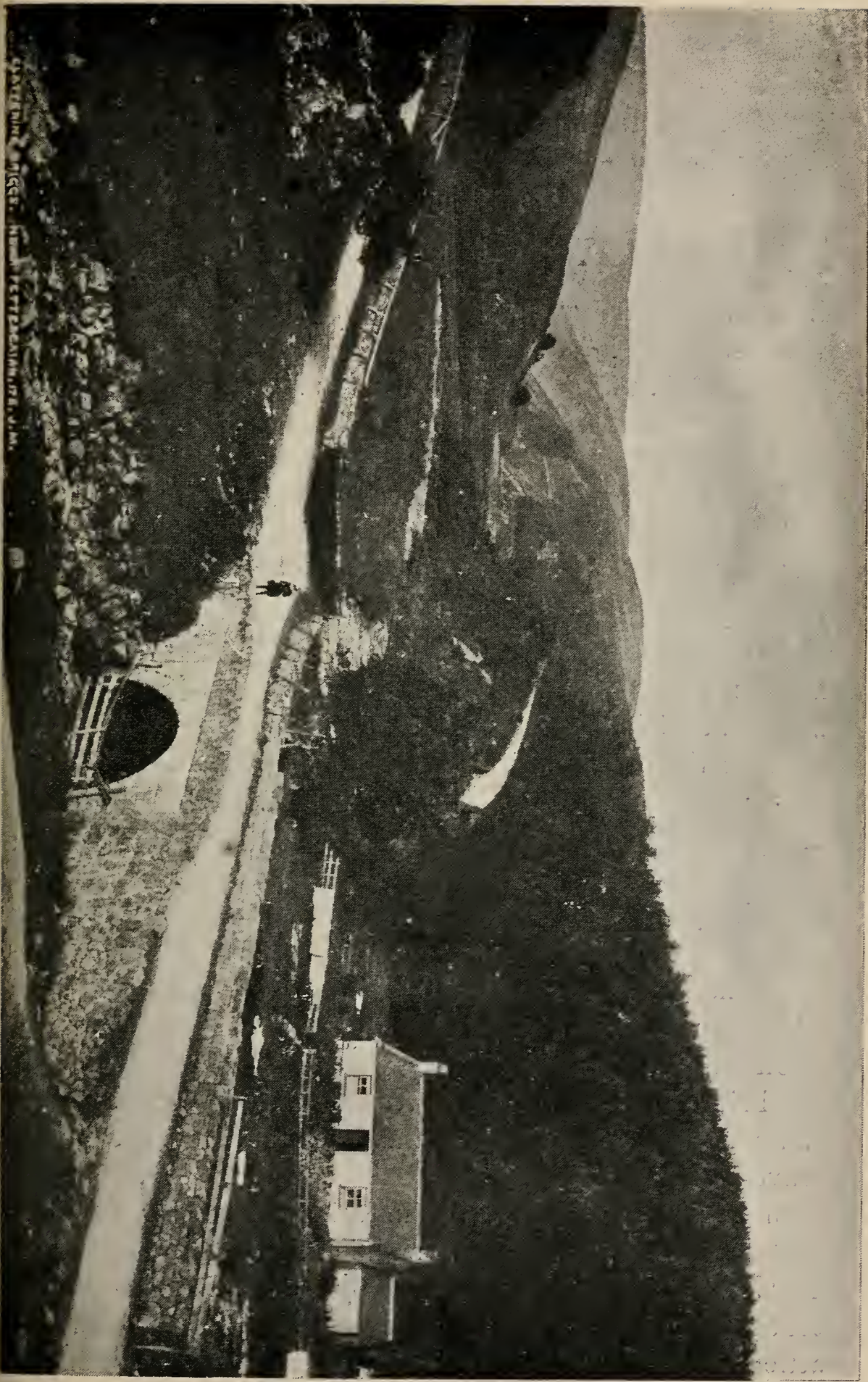
to know whom they had got. All, except General Gray, breakfasted a little before nine. Brown acted as my servant, brushing my skirt and boots, and taking any message; and Grant as Albert's valet. At a quarter to ten we started the same way as before, except that we were in the carriage which Lady Churchill and the General had yesterday. It was, unfortunately, misty, and we could see no distance. The people had just discovered who we were, and a few cheered us as we went along. We passed close to *Fettercairn*, Sir J. Forbes's house; then, farther on to the left, *Fasque*, belonging to Sir T. Gladstone, who has evidently done a great deal for the country, having built many good cottages. We then came to a very long hill, at least four miles in length, called the *Cairniemonth*,<sup>1</sup> whence there is a fine view; but which was entirely obscured by a heavy driving mist. We walked up part of it, and then for a little while Alice and I sat alone in the carriage."

In the same natural and interesting manner the remainder of the journey, by way of Glendye, Finzean, Glentanner, and round by Glenmuick to Balmoral—in all eighty-two miles for the two days—is minutely and faithfully described; but the same in detail need not here be quoted. It may be proper, however, to narrate one or two little incidents of the Royal visit not hitherto recorded.

Brown and Grant, Her Majesty's faithful servants, were sent three months beforehand to arrange with Mr Durward of the "Ramsay Arms." From his being an old acquaintance, they had little hesitation in confiding the plans of the proposed visit. Her Majesty states in her narrative that none but the landlord, landlady, and the coachman knew who they were; but one of the maidservants, a Deeside girl, also knew. She had a peep at the party on arrival, and hurrying to her mistress, she blurted out "That's the Queen, I've seen her many a time." In the

<sup>1</sup> The accompanying illustration shows on the left the road branching off to the Cairn o' Mount, and that on the right to the Glen o' Drumtochty; while in the foreground are seen the Clatterin' Brig and "Marity-may" well, the resort of pic-nic parties and happy youngsters, who on many a summer day "ran about the brae," or "paidlet i' the burn frae morning sun till dine."





CLIFFSIDE, N.J. - NEW PETTAPAH, N.J., U.S.A.



interests of the house, she promised secrecy, and kept it. Referring to another statement: "At the 'Temperance Hotel' they were very anxious to know whom they had got." Mr McDonald, the landlord, remarked, the same evening, to Mr Durward, that his visitors must be of the royal family, from the coats of arms on their belongings. In admiration of Her Majesty's queenly condescension, the villagers relate that on coming down stairs for their evening walk, the Queen and Lady Churchill noticed a pile of oaten "bannocks" as part of the harvesters' supper laid out upon a table off the kitchen, that they asked and took with them a piece of the same to taste and test its quality.

And to show that Her Majesty knew all about the place, it is said that when listening to the flute band she jocularly suggested they should be asked to play the "Bob o' Fettercairn." The Prince Consort and General Gray had a morning walk, and spent some time looking at the headstones in the churchyard. A few minutes before starting, the royal tourists wished the people to know who they were; and it may be left to the readers of this account to fancy how some thought they were hoaxed, and others more credulous hurried in their excitement to catch a passing glance of their gracious Queen. To commemorate this event, more auspicious to Fettercairn than any former one, a handsome triumphal arch was erected by subscription. It will be described in another chapter.

On the 10th of March, 1863, the rejoicings to celebrate the Prince of Wales' marriage took the form of a school children's procession and treat, and for adults an evening conversazione.

In 1871, telegraphic communication was extended to Fettercairn and Edzell. At midnight, on 23rd October, 1872, the villagers were aroused by the church bell, the occasion being a fire at Fasque House, which, by prompt action, was happily kept from extending to the main

building. A few months thereafter, in 1873, a grand entertainment was given at Fasque by Sir Thomas and Lady Gladstone to the people of the parish and district. Their tenantry of Strachan were also invited. The occasion was the celebration of the coming of age of Captain John Robert, now Sir John R. Gladstone, Bart.

In January, 1884, rejoicings on an extensive scale took place for the Hon. Charles Forbes Trefusis having attained his majority. The village was illuminated by rows of Chinese lamps, and an elevated jet of electric light. A huge bonfire blazed on the "Cross-shouther." A dinner was given in the Ramsay Arms, and was followed by a brilliant assembly in the Public School, which was nicely decorated for the occasion.

To celebrate the Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen the people of Fettercairn, not unmindful of a former favour, acted their part with true loyalty.

On the 28th and 29th of August, 1888, a grand Bazaar was held in the Public School, to raise funds for the erecting of a Public Hall, which, along with other public buildings, will be hereafter described.

In October, 1889, the distillery at Nethermill was burnt down. This disaster caused the removal from the village of a good many workmen and their families, and eventually of the late Mr Durie, distiller, and his family.

Not to be behind other places, a Golf Club, with the Rev. Mr Belcher as captain, and Mr Robert Murray as secretary, was inaugurated in 1892, after the laying out of an excellent nine-hole course on the hillside of Balnakettle, and kindly granted free of charge by the tenant, Mr William Middleton.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 was appropriately celebrated. Sir John R. Gladstone, as Chairman of the School Board, treated very liberally the children of the parish; and the people, with one mind, joined heartily in celebrating this joyful event.

## Part Third.

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# THE PARISH AND ITS LANDOWNERS.

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## CHAPTER X.

### LANDOWNERS PRIOR TO THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

PRIOR to the fifteenth century it is difficult, except in a general way, to trace the ownership of lands in and around the parish. The district, so far as may be inferred from old records and royal charters, comprised a greater extent of territory than that of the parish. In the tenth century Fettercairn was a thanedom, ruled by Maormors or Earls residing at Greencairn. At a later period other thanedoms appear as surrounding ones, viz., Newdosk, Kincardine, and Aberluthnot or Marykirk. But from subsequent disposals and settlements of lands, Fettercairn seems to have been the central and leading thanedom. The older records of Scotland, down to the accession of Robert the Bruce, were lost during the disputes for the crown in 1291-2. The most of these were, by order of Edward I., carried off to Berwick. Of the few that were left, one is a charter of lands in the Mearns by William the Lion in the twelfth century to Gulielmus Auceps, *i.e.*, William the



Hawker, ancestor of the Falconers. Another charter of Luthra, or lands of the Howe, along the north side of the Luther, including Balbegno, was granted by William the Lion, at the Castle of Kincardine, to Ranulph, the king's falconer, son of Walter of Lumgair. According to several authorities, the first of the Carnegies was constable to "William the Lion's house at Fettercairn," and for that service he got the lands of Phesdo and Pitnamoon. Other charters in the same reign conveyed lands, chiefly in the parishes of Laurencekirk and Fordoun, to the De Berkeleys (Barclays) and to the Abbey of Arbroath, founded by William the Lion. It is interesting to note that the first royal charter, to the town of Stirling, by Alexander II. on the 18th August, 1226, was granted and dated at Kincardine. In the reign of Alexander III. (1249-86), Reginald de Chen, Sheriff of Kincardine, rendered accounts of rents and taxes due to the king by thanes, whose names are not recorded, from the lands of Fettercairn. It is one of only two or three places noticed in vol. i. of the Exchequer Rolls of Scotland where a certain tax was paid by the thanes, in addition to their rents, under the name of "waytinga"—a duty which had come in place of the burden of entertaining the king for a night in his progresses. It was the practice of Alexander III. to move with his court from one castle to another and look after the administration of justice, consuming the agricultural produce of the adjoining demesnes and occupying his leisure with hawking and other field sports. At a later period this duty or tax was known as "Cuidoiche," a Celtic term, otherwise called "Conveth," a feast or a night's entertainment. This vague and burdensome exaction was afterwards converted into a definite food contribution from each ploughgate of land; but like *cane*, it ceased to be exigible when the vassal or occupant obtained feudal investiture. From 1262 to 1290, the



entries in the Rolls are in the following terms, viz. :—"Ex compoto Reginald de Chen, vice comitis de Kincardyn factum, . . . waitinga unius noctis de Fetherkern, &c." Or, Entered per account of Reginald de Chen, Sheriff of Kincardine, . . . his lodging of one night at Fettercairn, &c. The items in detail are:—"Redditus vaccarum, porcorum, casei, brasei, farine ordeï, gallinarum, prebende, &c." Or, Revenues, proceeds of cows, swine, cheese, malt, barley-meal, poultry, horse provender, &c. Fettercairn also contributed for the "waytinga" an annual charge of eleven merks. The account also includes the expense (seven merks) of fencing a new park at Kincardine. The price of a cow was 5s., a sheep 1s., a pig 1½d., a hen 1d., a chalder of barley 10s., of oats 15s., and of wheat £1, all in Scots money, which at that period was comparatively high in value. In the year 1359 William Keith, Sheriff of Kincardine, accounted for the thanage rents of "Fethirkern, Kincardyn and Aberluchmoir or Aberluthnot, the park of Kincardyn and pertinents thereof in the hands of William Earl of Sutherland, who married Margaret, the sister of David II.

The annual thanage rent of Fettercairn was valued at £26 3s. Scots; and at a later period the total rents of the above three thanages were put down at £71 0s. 8d. Scots and six rymarts or cows. These three thanages, granted for life to the Earl of Sutherland, were, at his death in 1370, given on military tenure to Sir Walter Lesley and his wife Euphemia, daughter of William Earl of Ross. She succeeded her father as Countess of Ross. She survived her husband and in 1382 married Alexander Stewart, Earl of Buchan, the notorious "Wolf of Badenoch," son of Robert II., and by this union he became for a time, along with his wife, conjoint holder of the lands, and a thane of Fettercairn. He had grants, in his own name, of lands in the North-Eastern Counties and in Perthshire, where stands

to this day his great stronghold, the Castle of Garth. He deserted his wife, her Fettercairn and other possessions, for which the Bishop of Moray reproved him, and with a band of "wyld and wykked Helandmen," as Wynton calls them, he sacrilegiously burned and destroyed the Elgin Cathedral, the Chanonry, and the houses of the clergy.

The Countess of Ross was succeeded by her son Alexander, who died in 1406, leaving his titles and possessions, including the Fettercairn thanedoms, to Euphemia, his only child and daughter by his wife Isabella, daughter of the Regent Duke of Albany. This lady, known as the Nun-Countess, before entering a convent proposed to resign in favour of her maternal uncle, John Earl of Buchan, instead of her paternal aunt, Margaret, wife of Donald, Lord of the Isles. The island chief asserted his claim, and to enforce the same invaded the mainland and, with 10,000 men, encountered the Earl of Mar with the men of Aberdeen, Angus and Mearns, at Harlaw in 1411. His defeat in that bloody battle checked his conquering marches, and prevented his becoming not only lord of Kincardine and Fettercairn, but king of all Scotland. The lands of Fettercairn and Kincardine reverted to the Crown; but James I., about 1436, granted them to John, a son of Alexander, Lord of the Isles, whom the king created Earl of Ross, with the additional title of Lord Kincardine. Whether this Earl of Ross continued during his lifetime in possession of the lands in whole or in part is doubtful, but an entry dated 1450 bears that a ward of lands in the barony of Kincardine was held by Walter Ogilvy of Beaufort for John, the young Earl of Ross, till his majority. In 1460 the rents of the three thanages reverted to the Crown, and John de Strathachin of Thornton, as receiver of rents, rendered an account of the "fermes of Fethyrkerne, Ballinbegynoch, Balerchnoch (Barna), Balnakedyll, Foderay (Fasque), Bordelands, Fasdaivoch (Phesdo), and Wyse-

manystoun." Rynmarts or cows formed a part of the rents. In 1463 he fell into arrears, but after three years recovered himself, and, in conjunction with David Guthrie, acted as receiver. From 1475 to 1484 Alexander Guthrie of that ilk, Sheriff of Forfar, collected the thanage rents of Fettercairn alias Kincardyn, which in 1480 amounted to £51 14s. 2d. and 3 marts. Henceforth the designation of the conjoined thanages is that of Fettercairn, like as in later times the lands of Kincardine have formed a part of the Fettercairn estate. In 1475 the lands of "Wodfield, Fresky, and Pitnamone, with the mills of Kincardyn and Fethirkerne, and also the lands of Essly, Balmane, and the two Strethis in the thanage of Fettercarne, with the annual rents of Kincardyn," were confirmed by Charter of James III. to George, Lord Leslie of Rothes; which lands he and his predecessors held of the Earl of Ross, previous to the forfeiture of John Earl of Ross. These possessions then became the Barony of Balmain.

The Kirklands of Fettercairn were held from 1438 onwards by a Thomas Ogston, Baillie of Lanark, a descendant of the Ogstons who took their name from Ogston in Morayshire. By his wife, a daughter of Irvine of Drum, he had two daughters: Jane, to whom he left his property of Tilwhilly in Banchory Ternan, and Elizabeth, who with her husband, Adam Hepburn of Craigs, was infefted in "the town and lands of Kirkton of Fettercairn," which, as stated in a previous chapter, was, by favour of James IV., in 1504 erected into a free burgh, with the usual privileges. They were succeeded by a cousin, John Ogston, who married a daughter of Barclay of Mathers, descended of David Barclay, the chief actor in the horrible deed on the hill of Garvock, about 1420, of throwing Melville of Glenbervie, the sheriff of the Mearns, into a boiling kettle, and acting out the king's hasty sentence that he be "sodden and suppit in bree."



John Ogston's successor was Alexander, who married Margaret, daughter of Alexander Strathauchin of Thornton and widow of John Ramsay, the first laird of Balmain. Alexander Ogston was succeeded by his son Walter, who in 1608 sold his property to his relative, David Ramsay of Balmain, for 9350 merks Scots, and died in 1615. Alexander Ogston was a Commissioner to the first General Assembly in 1560 "for the Kirks of the Mernes." He also attended the Assembly in 1567, and likewise that of 1592, which was held in Aberdeen. "Walter Ogstone, at Fettercarne, subscribed the Band anent the Religion."

Resuming the narration of lands brought down to 1480, it may be stated that in the same year Alexander Guthrie, Sheriff of Forfar, accounted for £6, as grassum of Ballernach (Barna), payable by William Levingstone of Drumry (Drumhendry) and others. He and his heirs were owners of Drumhendry. At that time the Bishop of Brechin received tithes of lands in the Mearns. A record in the Episcopal Register shows that tithes had been exacted from the lands of "Petnamone, Molendinum (Mill) de Kyncardyn, Fesky, Molendinum de Feddircarn, Balmane, Lital Strath, Mekil Stratht, et Esly," in the lordship of Balmane. Owing to a dispute that had arisen, a reference was made to the Regent, the Duke of Albany, and to the Pope, in 1463, regarding the right of the Bishop to the second tithes of Fettercairn; and these dignitaries settled the same in his favour.

At Edinburgh, on the 25th July, 1481, a return of the rents of Fettercairn was made as follows :

"Balbegnoch, assigned to William and James Strathachin for 5 years, 12 lbs. with services, and 36 poultry."

"Fothra, to David Clerc, land of, 40s. and  $\frac{1}{2}$  a poultry."

"Thanstone, to David Strathaquin, son and heir of James Strathaquin of Thornton, 10 lbs. 1 mart, and 30 poultry."

"Fothra, let to Alexr. Wilson, Golfride Strathaquin, Alexr. Robertson, 4 lbs.  $\frac{2}{3}$  mart, and 12 poultry."



- “Balnokedill, to Andro and William Thomson, John Findlason, David Mill, 6 lbs. grassum and 8 poultry.”
- “Mill of Luthre, to William and Walter Bane, John Lyell, William and John Fullartoun, 5 lbs., grassum 8 lbs.”
- “Balerno, in hands of David Strathachin and William Jamieson, half and half £6 14s. 4d., and 18 poultry.”
- “Balmakewan, in hands of George Barclay, 10 lbs.”
- “The whole lands of Balnakedill, Fothray, and Mill of Luthre, let by King’s letters to John Strathachin of Thornton and David his son, as the tenants repudiated the terms of lease.”

In 1487–8 the king granted to David Strathachin certain lands in Fordoun and Marykirk, with two parks, and the old Castle of Kincardine. In 1494 a sasin of Nether Craigniston (Coldstream) was granted to a John Tulloch, and the same again in 1501. In this year William, Earl Marischal, was sheriff of Kincardine, and he intromitted with the lands of Fettercairn. For nearly two hundred years from 1488, Andrew Wood of Balbegno and his successors were Thaners of Fettercairn, and from 1510, when John Ramsay had a grant of Fasque and Balmain, the proprietary domains of Fettercairn and Kincardine were curtailed in extent much the same as is now the estate of Fettercairn. Yet the thanage extended beyond these lands; for in 1520 the sheriff of the county, Robert Rate, accounted for “Two toothpicks as the duplication of blench ferme of Glensauch in the thanage of Fettercairn.” And in 1562 Queen Mary confirmed to Alexander Lindsay and Elizabeth Falconer his spouse the lands of Broadland and Phaisdo, in the thanage of Fettercairn. In 1593 the lands of Fettercairn again reverted to the crown; but in 1601 the king granted to Alexander Strathauchin, with other lands, those of Thornton, the Castle, Castlested, parks and crofts of Kincardine, with Huntersait, Crichtieburn, Arnbarrow, the muirs and mosses from the Cairn o’ Mount and the Ferdour water down to the lands of Over Craigneston. In 1606 David Tulloch was served heir to an uncle,

Alexander Tulloch in the barony of Craigneston, the Mains, Mealmill and Netherseat of the same, Inchgray, &c. Later in that year, Alexander Strathauchin de Thornton was served heir to his grandfather, Alexander Strachan, in lands, muirs, mosses and pastures in Marykirk and Fordoun, including Crichtieburn ; in lands

“Near the town of Kincardine, the croft called Hillcroft, and Aikerriggs thereof, the Wealcroft, Chancellor’s croft, Dencroft, 2 Calsey crofts, Lonie croft, Bakehouse croft, and Lorimer croft, Burne croft, Halscroft,  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Boig’s croft, and Coryismani’s, Beattie’s croft, Annabadie’s croft, 4 crofts of Craigisland of which 2 are called Hall croft and Hen croft, and 2 Hill Croft and Archer croft, the croft called James Pittercheidi’s land, Countess croft, Countaishaugh croft ; Loichetraist, Blaikindennis, Dewresunis, Wealcroft,  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Umbrahi (?) croft called Bowmanis ; all in town and constabulary of Kincardine, with lands, crofts and tenements of Gallowhilton, Palframanston, Langhauche, Suitter croft, Temple croft, Skinner croft, Gois croft, Twa Chaippil crofts, Lonie croft, Aiker and Newlands with multures in said town. Ancient Extent, 20s. ; New Extent, 33s. Also 2 crofts in villa de Fettercairne. A. E., 3s. 4d. ; N. E., 6s. 8.”

This long list of crofts and holdings, the curtilages of the castle, shows that in the service of the court a large number of people were employed. No trace remains of the town and its crofts, save the tree-grit and disused graveyard of St. Catherine, with the old road winding between the fertile and well-tilled fields of Castleton farm. Ten years later, in 1616, Alexander Strathauchin had an additional grant of Crichtieburn and lands, resigned by Captain Alexander Wishart of Phaisdo, the commonty between the Cairn o’ Month, Ferdour water, and the hill above Braelands of Balbegno, west from Feskies, called West Feskies, the lands of Dilbrek (?) and Cardounwell, as pendicles of Broadland, with fresh water fishings on the Northesk, Luther and Ferdour ; with power to hold free fairs annually, one on the Muir of Huntersait and Arne-

barrow, or the Muir of Ord, and on that piece of muir between Arnebarrow and the water of Ferdour called Todlowis, on 28th July and eight days after ; the other on the Muir of Kincardine, on the 26th August and eight days after. John Earl of Rothes, in 1636, had a grant of Pitnamoone with the mills of Kincardine and Fettercairn, formerly held by his great-grandfather George Earl of Rothes, and in the following year William, Earl Marischal, was appointed constable of Kincardine, its crofts and Gallowhilston, with the advowson of the chapel of St. Catherine.

James Straquhane, who in 1635 is so designated as of Fettercairn when acquiring possession of the lands of Craigniston, was probably a son of the above-named Alexander Stathauchin. The site of his house in Fettercairn, burnt in 1645 by the soldiers of Montrose, cannot now be determined, although a spot west of the mansion-house garden looks, from its hard and uneven surface, like the site of some old buildings. If after the burning James Straquhane betook himself to the Castle of Kincardine, it could only be for a few months, as it too was burnt down and finally reduced to ruins by his kinsman John Middleton, afterwards Earl Middleton, on the 16th March, 1646. This event ended the connection of the Strachans with Fettercairn and Kincardine. Middleton's mother was Catherine Strachan, and the cause might be a big family quarrel ; but the presumption is that the Strachans were Royalists, and that he, at the head of the Covenanting forces, sought to make himself master of the situation, and owner of the lands, like as he had just done at Montrose's castle and lands of Ald Montrose. Two years later, after his turning round and gaining the favour of Charles I., the lands and barony of Fettercairn were confirmed to him by a Royal Charter, dated 29th July, 1648, being that he "John Middleton, *supremus dux exercitus locum tenens*



*generalis* (Lieutenant-General of the army), and Grizel Durham his wife, and the longest liver of them in conjunct fee, and the heirs legitimately procreated between them, are granted the Barony of Fettercairn in the County of Kincardine, formerly belonging to James Strachne." This grant, no doubt, included the town and lands of Kincardine. They were Middleton's property in 1670, according to the date on the Market Cross of Fettercairn, as the part of it bearing this date was erected by him at the old town of Kincardine. Besides, in the interval from 1648 to 1670, no other owner appears, and these lands have ever since formed part of Fettercairn estate.



## CHAPTER XI.

## JOHN EARL MIDDLETON AND HIS SUCCESSORS.

A SUMMARY of the descent and eventful career of John, First Earl Middleton, as well as a short notice of his heirs and successors may be given. The name of Middleton was adopted from the lands of Midtown or Middleton in the Parish of Laurencekirk. It appears in the Mearns as early as the reign of William the Lion (1165-1214). Humfridus de Middleton was witness to a charter in the reign of Alexander II. (1214-1249), and Humphry of Middleton witnessed a grant to the Abbey of Arbroath in 1272, and swore fealty to Edward I. of England in 1296. About 1317 a Gilbert Middleton appeared as a bold outlaw, heading a band that attacked and robbed the dignitaries of the church. In 1430 William of Middleton, and in 1460 Gilbert, intromitted with the lands of Arbroath Abbey. From 1481 Laurence of Middleton became Sheriff of Forfar, and in 1516 Gilbert his son succeeded in the same office. His wife was Marjory Wishart of Pittarrow. After them came John Middleton and his wife Isobel Falconer of the Halkerton family about 1560. His second wife was Catherine Strachan of Thornton. Their grandson, John Middleton, in 1606, exchanged the lands of Kilnhill and Bent for those of Muirton, Caldham, and Rosehill. He took the designation of Middleton of Caldham, and in 1612 was succeeded by his brother Robert, who, sitting in his chair, was killed by the soldiers of

Montrose in 1645. His wife was Catherine Strachan. They had four sons: John, who became Earl Middleton; Alexander, the minister of Rayne, and Principal of King's College; Francis, and Andrew who, in 1687, became proprietor of Balbegno. According to one authority they had other three sons: George, Physician to James II. in France; James, a clergyman in Montrose; and William, a Lieutenant-Colonel. John was born in 1619, and at an early age entered the army as a pikeman in Hepburn's regiment ordered to France, but whose Scotch officers were recalled by the Supreme Council of the Covenanters in Edinburgh to resist Charles I. Then in 1639, Middleton, only twenty years of age, became a captain in the army of Montrose, which "for religion, the covenant, and the countrie, entered Aberdeen in order of battel, horsemen, pikemen, musketiers, with muskets, bandeliers, swords, powder, ball, and match; all officers in buff coats, in goodly order, and blue ribbons hanging about their craigs (necks)." Viscount Aboyne blockaded the Bridge of Dee to prevent their crossing, but by a manœuvre on the part of Montrose, causing Aboyne to withdraw, the passage was effected, and the Covenanting army entered the town. The most notable of the covenanters that fell was a brother of Sir Gilbert Ramsay of Balmain and of Mr Andrew Ramsay, minister of St. Giles; and on the Royalist side, Sir John Seton of Pitmedden—the latter by the warrior,

“ Whose name was Major Middleton  
That manned the bridge of Dee,  
And with him Colonel Henderson  
That dung Pittmedden in three.”

When Montrose turned Royalist, Middleton's services were not required, and he was left to pursue his own course. His father infested him in the lands of Caldham. He married Grizel Durham, daughter of James Durham of Pitkerrow. She had been twice married; first to

Alexander Fotheringham of Ballindrone, and next, in 1630, to Sir Gilbert Ramsay of Balmain. This second marriage was dissolved, for Sir Gilbert had a second wife, a daughter of Auchinleck of Ballandro. Middleton's family consisted of a son, Charles, and two daughters, Grizel who married William the tenth Earl of Morton, and Helen, who became the wife of Patrick Lyon, the first Earl of Strathmore. The portraits of this couple are to be seen in Glamis Castle. On the front door lintel of the oldest part of Fettercairn House are the initials of John Middleton and Grizel Durham,<sup>1</sup> with 1666 the date of its erection. The countess died in September of the same year, and according to a tradition current forty years ago, she was afflicted with blindness; and for the schoolmaster's reading the Bible to her on her deathbed, she bequeathed to him and his successors half an acre of land and a garden, below the village, equal in extent to an old measure called a "boll o' bear."

In 1642 Middleton entered the service of the English Parliament and attained to the rank of Colonel, and after the battle of Edgehill to that of Major-General. After other battles, he, at the head of 3000 dragoons, contributed to the defeat of the king at Newbury. Jealousies and disputes rent asunder the Parliamentarians, consisting of Presbyterians and Independents. Middleton was one of the officers who, under the "self-denying ordinance," resigned in 1644. He then joined the army of his countrymen, and was second in command to Sir David Leslie. They defeated Montrose at Philiphaugh in September, 1645. Montrose escaped to the north and joined the Earl of Huntly. Leslie was rewarded by the Convention of Estates at Glasgow with 5000 merks and a gold chain.

<sup>1</sup> A recent writer doubts whether the Countess of Middleton was the Grizel Durham whose marriage contract with Fotheringham took place in 1608, and whether Sir Gilbert Ramsay had a wife of that name.



and sent for service to England. Middleton's reward was 2500 merks and the command of the forces in Scotland. On his march to Aberdeen with 800 foot and 600 horse soldiers, he took and burnt Braedalbane's Castle of Finlarig on Loch Tay and, as already noticed, the castles of Old Montrose and Kincardine. He subjected Aberdeenshire and the north to the ravages of fire and sword; taking the castles of Drum, Fyvie, the Earl of Seaforth's and others. The Royalists were defeated, and Middleton was commissioned by the Estates to confer with Montrose. They met, and Montrose agreed that with his generals Crawford, Hurry, and Graham, he should betake himself beyond seas. Other leaders of the Cavaliers, except Alexander M'Donell (Collciotach), were likewise pardoned. Middleton found time, in August, 1646, to attend the baptism of a nephew, John, the second son of Alexander, principal of King's College and University, Aberdeen. The older son, George, succeeded his father as principal, and their portraits are to be seen in the College. Middleton was appointed Commissioner on the forfeited estates of the Cavaliers, but the Earl of Huntly would not submit, whereupon he was captured and taken to Edinburgh, imprisoned and executed. By permission of the Committee of Estates, a middle party, called the Duke of Hamilton's Engagers, raised an army to defend Charles I., but to keep up the Covenant. Middleton joined them, and became Lieutenant-General of the Horse. The Covenanters, led by Argyle, distrusted them. They marched into his territory in June, 1648, and carried all before them. Middleton at their head entered England to aid the Royalists, but was defeated at Preston, taken captive, conveyed to Newcastle and cast into prison. He escaped, however, and joined Lord Ogilvy in an ineffective attempt to produce a Royalist rising in Atholl. From that he retired, and on the arrival of Charles II., in 1650, joined that monarch. He was banned by the Kirk for



“Malignancy,” and James Guthrie at Stirling pronounced upon him the sentence of excommunication, which after a year was removed by his doing penance in sackcloth in the Church of Dundee. He was Major-General of the Horse in the army of Charles, at the battle of Worcester, on the 3rd of September, 1651. There he was wounded, taken prisoner, and sent to the Tower of London. Cromwell destined him for execution, but he again escaped, hid himself for a fortnight in London, and joined his royal master in France. In 1653 he raised a small force in Holland, returned to Scotland, and fought at several places with General Monk, and in July, 1654, was defeated at Lochgarry, with the loss of his “white charger, gold, papers, and all his baggage.” He fled “over the bogs and over the hills,” crossed the sea, and joined the King in Holland, who in 1656 created him an earl. At the Restoration, in 1660, he returned with Charles, and, by letters patent, was confirmed “Comes de Middleton, de Claermont et Fettercairn, &c.”; or, Earl of Middleton, Lord of Claermont<sup>1</sup> and Fettercairn; and it was provided that these titles should, in all future time, extend to his heirs bearing the surname and arms of Middleton. The Earl was also Commander of the Forces in Scotland, Governor of Edinburgh Castle, and one of the Lords of the Privy Council. In 1661 he was appointed Lord High Commissioner to the Scottish Parliament. As the first man in the kingdom, his rule was so tyrannical and his conduct so disgraceful that he hastened his own downfall. In the words of Bishop Burnett, “It was a mad, roaring time, for the men of affairs were almost perpetually drunk, and he, in the terrible Parliament at Edinburgh, and the ‘drunken one’ thereafter at Glasgow, enacted laws and passed orders

<sup>1</sup> An outlying patch of pasture land, part of Fettercairn estate, on the hillside, east of Arnbarrow, with some old trees, and the appearance of former occupancy, has borne the name of Claermont.

unconstitutional and oppressive." The hurried trial and execution of the Marquis of Argyle, the act in 1662 which deprived some 400 ministers of their benefices, and the fines exacted from nonconforming landlords, were laid to his charge. One of these, James Wood of Balbegno, was fined £2000 (Scots). The people were disgusted and rejoiced at his subsequent humiliation. Having thus abused his power and made the Cabal Ministry, with their leader the Earl of Lauderdale, his enemies, he lost favour with the king, was deprived of his appointments and sent to be governor of Tangier, in Africa, where in decent exile he died, from the effects of a fall down a stair, in 1673. Charles his son, who had represented Winchelsea in Parliament, succeeded him in the estates and titles. He was deputed as Envoy extraordinary to the Court of Vienna, and afterwards he held several high offices at home, being one of the principal secretaries of state for Scotland, also extraordinary Lord of the Court of Session, and a secretary of state for England. He followed James II. to France and had the entire management of the exiled court at St. Germain. His Scotch estates and titles were forfeited in 1695. With John Drummond, Earl of Melfort, he projected an invasion of England and the assassination of William III. He died in 1719. His wife was Lady Catherine, daughter of Robert Earl of Cardigan. They had two sons, John and Charles; three daughters: Elizabeth, who married Edward, son of the Earl of Perth; Mary, who became the wife of Sir John Gifford; and Catherine, who married the Comte de Rothes, officer in the French army. The two sons were taken at sea by Admiral Byng, in the descent which the French intended to make on Scotland in 1708, and were conveyed to the Tower. After three years' imprisonment Queen Anne ordered their release. They returned to France and were no more heard of.

The Middleton estate was burdened with debt, even

before the death of the first earl. His son-in-law, the Earl of Strathmore, undertook its management, and disposed of the same to Earl John's grand-nephew, John Middleton of Seaton, Aberdeen, a brigadier in the army of King George I. His father was George, minister of Glamis, who succeeded his father as principal of King's College. His mother was Janet, daughter of James Gordon of Seaton, and through her that property was acquired by the family. She attained the age of one hundred years. Brigadier Middleton<sup>1</sup> changed the name of the estate to that of Fettercairn, but a hamlet on the property still retains the name of Middleton. He was succeeded by his son George of Seaton, advocate, who died without issue in 1772. His wife, Lady Diana Grey, daughter of Henry, the third Earl of Stamford, survived him. In 1777 her trustees sold the estate for £15,500 to Mrs Emilia Belsches, widow of William Belsches of Tofts, in the county of Perth.

<sup>1</sup> A son of Robert, the brother of Brigadier Middleton, was Charles, Lord Barham, first Lord of the Admiralty when Nelson won Trafalgar, and ancestor, through his daughter Diana, of the Earls of Gainsborough. Another son, George, was a Captain in the Scots' Brigade, and father of Robert Gambier Middleton, Rear-Admiral, whose son is Colonel William Gambier, retired; and his grandsons, by his sons Alexander and George respectively, are Richard W. L. Middleton, and Robert Middleton, barrister, both in London.



## CHAPTER XII.

## FAMILIES OF BELSCHES, STUART AND FORBES.

IT is interesting to note that, two hundred years before Emilia Belsches bought the estate of Fettercairn, an ancestor of hers resided and brought up a family in the village. His name was John Clerk, whom Sir John Clerk, the first baronet of Penicuik, in the *Memoirs of his Journals* (1676-1755), recently published, calls his grandfather's grandfather. Sir John relates that his ancestors were merchant burgesses in Montrose, that one of them, a John Clerk, was one of the hostages of King David's ransom in 1357, that the Clerks were for many years chief magistrates of Montrose. And coming down to the middle of the sixteenth century, John Clerk had a feu of lands in Badenoch from the Duke of Gordon; and taking part with Queen Mary against his superior, he had on that account to flee the country. "He took shelter in a little town called Fettercairn. Here he lived with his family many years; how he traded I never could learn; but he lived creditably, and was sufficiently able to breed up his son William a merchant, and to provide him with a good stock." This William Clerk had a son John, who, according to a Kirk-Session Record now lost, was baptized on 22nd December, 1611, by Alexander Forbes, minister of Fettercairn and Bishop of Caithness. This son was bred a merchant, went to France in 1634, and having settled in Paris, made a fortune. Returning to Scotland in 1646 with £10,000 he bought Penicuik, and married Mary, daughter of Sir William Gray, ancestor of Lord Gray.



His eldest son was Sir John Clerk, created a baronet by King Charles II. in 1679. On the maternal side, Sir John was a great-grandson of Drummond of Hawthornden, the poet. He was twice married, and had large families. Margaret Clerk, the third daughter of the second family, became the wife of Alexander Belsches of Invermay, by whom she had seven sons and one daughter. Their eldest son, John Belsches, married Mary, daughter of Daniel Stewart (a man of wealth) and his wife Margaret Wishart of the family of Pittarrow. Their daughter Emilia Belsches married her cousin William Belsches of Tofts near Crieff. He died in 1753, leaving his widow with an infant son whom she brought up and educated for the Edinburgh Bar. In 1775 at the age of twenty-two, he married Lady Jane Leslie, eldest daughter of David, Earl of Leven and Melville. The issue of this marriage was an only child, a daughter Williamina, born in October, 1776. An ancestor of Emilia Belsches had served in the army under William III., and in 1706 received a baronetcy; which title was inherited by John Belsches. His mother, on the death of her uncle, Sir William Stuart of Castlemilk, in 1777, acquired the property of her grandfather Daniel Stuart. Being thus possessed of ample means, she bought the estate of Fettercairn. In 1797 she executed a settlement for her son to assume the name of his great-grandfather Daniel Stuart, and the royal license ran as follows:—"His Majesty has been pleased to allow Mrs Emilia Belsches, and her son and heir Sir John Wishart Belsches of Fettercairn, Baronet, to use the name of Stuart." In 1801 Sir John was elected M.P. for Kincardineshire, and continued to serve till 1807, when he was made a Baron of Exchequer with a salary of £2000 a year. He fulfilled the duties of this office till his death in 1821. He was name-father of the late John Stuart Mill, politician and economist, whose father was James Mill, author of the *History of India*—a work pro-

nounced by Macaulay to be the greatest that had appeared since that of Gibbon. He was the son of a shoemaker and crofter at the North Water Bridge, Logie Pert; and in his student days he acted as tutor to Miss Stuart, and in grateful acknowledgment of the assistance and kindness of Sir John and Lady Jane, he named his son John Stuart. Professor Bain of Aberdeen, in his Biography of James Mill, writes as follows:—

“Sir John Stuart’s steady attachment to James Mill entitles him to honourable remembrance. But it is not easy to find out what kind of man Sir John was. Few people can give an account of him. He was not even honoured with a newspaper paragraph on his death. The popular tradition makes him out haughty and ill-tempered; but, after hearing all that could be said in his own locality, I was led to the conclusion, that he was a just-minded and really generous man, though somewhat imperious; he could not bear to be thwarted. Lady Jane was revered for every virtue.”

Her deeds of piety and generosity are recorded by the late Rev. Robert Foote in his account of the parish; and the old people of Fettercairn held her memory in grateful remembrance. The portraits of Sir John and Lady Jane are carefully preserved in Fettercairn House; and that of their daughter, taken at a later period, is specially and deservedly venerated. Her hand was sought by men of rank, and notably Sir Walter Scott, who narrates, in the introduction of the *Antiquary*, the intended journey by coach of a young man—no other than himself—on a love expedition to the Mearns.<sup>1</sup> In canto iv. of *Rokeby*, Miss Stuart, it is believed, stands in beauty and grace as the prototype of Matilda, and here a line or two of sect. 5 may be quoted:—

“Wreathed in its dark-brown rings, her hair  
Half hid Matilda’s forehead fair,  
Half hid and half reveal’d to view  
Her full dark eye of hazel hue.”

<sup>1</sup> Vid. his letter in chap. xix.

She married William Forbes, younger of Pitsligo, who thereupon took the name and arms of the Stuart family; and at his father's death became Sir William Stuart Forbes of Pitsligo and Fettercairn. He was descended from Duncan Forbes of Corsindae, the second son of the second Lord Forbes of Pitsligo. His father, Sir William Forbes, sixth baronet of Pitsligo, the celebrated Edinburgh banker, and the biographer of Dr. Beattie, "the minstrel," was one of the most estimable and eminent men of his day. He recovered the Pitsligo estates, forfeited for the share which Alexander, the fourth Lord Pitsligo, had taken in the rebellion of 1745. In the words of a recent historian:—

“Sir William was a public-spirited and benevolent gentleman who, by great activity and spotless integrity, had been eminently prosperous in life; devoting, in the true spirit of christian charity, a large portion of his ample means and valuable time to the relief of his fellow-creatures, or to works of public utility and improvement. He was also a gentleman of the highest breeding and most dignified manners, the life of every scene of innocent amusement or recreation; a leader of the cultivated and elegant society of the Capital, and a link between the old Scottish aristocracy, to which by birth he belonged, and the rising commercial opulence with which he was connected by profession; as well as the literary circle with which he was intimate from his requirements.”

His second son was John Hay Forbes, advocate, who rose to the Bench as Lord Medwyn, and died in 1854. A daughter, Jane, became the wife of James Skene of Rubislaw (1791–1864). Their second son was the famous Celtic scholar and writer, William Forbes Skene, D.C.L. and LL.D., and H.M. Historiographer for Scotland. Sir Walter Scott, in the introduction of canto iv. of *Marmion*, addresses his friend James Skene in reference to his marriage, and the death thereafter of Sir William Forbes. A portion of the address runs:—



“ Then happy those, beloved of heaven,  
To whom the mingled cup is given ;  
Whose lenient sorrows find relief,  
Whose joys are chasten'd by their grief.  
And such a lot, my Skene, was thine,  
When thou of late, wert doom'd to twine,—  
Just when thy bridal hour was by,—  
The cypress with the myrtle tie.  
Just on thy bride her Sire had smiled,  
And bless'd the union of his child,  
When love must change its joyous cheer,  
And wipe affection's filial tear.  
Nor did the actions next his end,  
Speak more the father than the friend,  
Scarce had lamented Forbes paid  
The tribute to his Minstrel's shade,  
The tale of friendship scarce was told,  
Ere the narrator's heart was cold—  
Far may we search before we find  
A heart so manly and so kind ! ”

William, the seventh baronet, had, by his wife Williamina Stewart, four sons : William, the eldest, who predeceased his father ; John, the eighth baronet ; Charles, who became a partner in, and manager of the bank ; and James-David, a highly-distinguished son of science, who became Professor of Natural Philosophy in the Edinburgh University, and afterwards Principal of the United College of St. Salvator and St. Leonard of St. Andrews.

Sir William Stuart Forbes died in 1828, and John, his eldest surviving son, succeeded to the estates and titles. On the death of his cousin, Alexander Hepburn-Murray Belsches of Invermay and Balmanno, he succeeded, in 1864, as heir of entail to these estates, and assumed the additional surname and arms of Hepburn. He had been educated for the bar, and that training served him in good stead throughout his career, in the conduct of affairs, as a public-spirited and philanthropic county gentleman. It may be truly said that upon him fell the mantle of his



grandfather, and that, by those who knew him, his like may not again be seen. He spared neither time, trouble, nor expense in promoting the welfare of his fellow-creatures; and in many instances, known to the writer of these pages, he worked late and early, both in and out, regardless of bodily ease and comfort, for the sake of doing good. He held a prominent place among agriculturists, and in their councils he was regarded as an authority. He was long an active and leading member of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, a patron and promoter of the Fettercairn Farmers' Club, taking, in connection with these bodies, a deep and humane interest in the state of the agricultural labourer, and making praiseworthy efforts to elevate his condition. As an enlightened and advanced educationist he had few equals. The schools on his extensive estates, and the parochial schools with which he had to do as an heritor, were the objects of his constant care; with a hand ever open to supply their wants, and with wise counsels ever ready to guide the teachers. In 1857 the evening entertainments known as Penny Readings, and which for a time became so common all over the country, were begun by him in Fettercairn, as the first of the kind in Scotland. In 1856, along with the Marquis of Tweeddale, he founded the Scottish Meteorological Society; and continued to use his influence and lend his aid for the promotion of its objects. As a deputy-lieutenant and the convener of Kincardineshire, he took a leading part in the business of the county. In 1834 he married Lady Harriet Kerr, third daughter of William sixth Marquis of Lothian, who survived him. She died at London in 1884, truly and sincerely regretted by all, and specially by the people of Fettercairn, who had so long experienced her kindly acts of benevolence and charity. Sir John died in London in May, 1866, and was interred in the family tomb in Edinburgh Greyfriars' Churchyard. Their only child







and daughter, Harriet-Williamina, married, in July, 1858, her cousin, the Hon. Charles Henry Rolle Trefusis, now twentieth Baron Clinton. At her father's death, then Lady Clinton, she was duly served heiress by the Sheriff of Chancery, under the deed of entail made in 1811 by Baron Sir John Stuart, and, in accordance therewith, she entered into possession. Shortly afterwards her cousin, now Sir William Forbes, Bart., in New Zealand, as the eldest son of Charles Hay Forbes, deceased, raised in the Court of Session an action in which he sought to have Lady Clinton's title set aside, on the ground that, under the destination of the entail, he was entitled to succeed to the estates in preference to her ladyship. The Court of Session, and afterwards the House of Lords, decided that the title of Lady Clinton, under the deed of entail, was unchallengeable. This amiable lady, who had endeared herself to the people of Fettercairn, died at the family mansion of Heanton-Satchville, North Devon, in July, 1869, leaving a family of two sons, Charles-John-Robert and Henry-Walter; and three daughters, Ada-Harriet, Mary-Elizabeth and Margaret-Adela. The Hon. Charles-Forbes-Trefusis attained his majority in January, 1884, and has since taken an active part in county and local affairs. The Hon. Henry-Walter is a Captain in the Scots Guards, and has lately been appointed aide-de-camp to General Gascoigne, Commander of the Forces in Hong Kong. The Hon. Margaret-Adela, in 1897, married the Rev. Leonard White-Thomson, second son of Colonel White-Thomson of Broomford, County Devon. During the years of Mr Trefusis's minority, his father, Lord Clinton, as administrator at law, ably and efficiently managed and improved the property. Mr Trefusis married, in 1886, Lady Jane-Grey M'Donnell, fourth daughter of Mark fifth Earl of Antrim, and they have two daughters, Harriet and Fenella.



## CHAPTER XIII.

## NEWDOSK OR BALFOUR.

THE old thanedom and parish of Neudos or Newdosk, recently annexed to Fettercairn, is now generally known as the district of Balfour. At a very early period the lands were granted to the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, and as already noticed, Robert the Bruce probably granted an extension of the same. The name of Neudos appears a hundred years earlier. Reginald de Chen, Sheriff of Kincardine, had a charter of the thanedom. In 1365 King David gave to Alexander Lindsay of Crawford, father of the first Lindsay of Glenesk, a grant of the king's lands "in thanagio de Newdoskis in vicecomitate de Kincardyn." The rents x. li. (ten pounds) were uplifted by the Lord High Chamberlain, Thomas Stewart Earl of Angus. In 1390 a confirmation of the charter was granted to David Lindsay; and again, in 1406, by Robert III. to his sons and the longest liver of them. The Lindsays retained possession till 1585, when Sir John Wischart of Pitarrow was granted a part of the lands, viz., "Eister Balfour, Weister Balfour, et Incherbock, in baronia de Newdosk," at £8 of valuation entry. In 1607 he received in addition the lands of Kirkton and their brewery, with the lands of Bonhary, "in the barony of Rescobie and regality of St. Andrews," at £7 6s. 8d. of valuation entry. The parish of Newdosk paid four merks annually to the Cathedral of St. Andrews. In 1615, his son, Captain Alexander

Wischart, disposed of Balfour to John Straton, son of Sir Alexander Straton of Lauriston, who in 1605 was Lord High Commissioner to the Assembly of the Church at Aberdeen. John Straton died in 1631, and his son Alexander succeeded as proprietor of the Woodtons, the Mill, Easter and Wester Balfour and Incharbock, at a total valuation of £5; and likewise the advowson of the Church and Parish of Fettercairn; the lands of Kirkton and the brasina (maltings) of the barony of Newdosk, valued *in toto* at £8 13s. 4d.

A record of date 1618 bears that Alexander Thornton, the son of an Edinburgh burgess, had a grant of lands in Fordoun parish, of a quarter of Easter and Wester Woodtons and the mill of Woodton.

Alexander Straton was succeeded in 1666 by a son Alexander, who sold Balfour to a Thomas Stewart in 1679, and Lauriston to Sir John Falconer of Phesdo in 1694. The William Burnett who, as already stated, with his thirty-three tenants, took possession of the church seats in 1686, was the next proprietor of the estate; but Margaret Lindsay, spouse of Alexander Straton, and sister of David Lindsay of Edzell, retained, in her own right and in conjunction with her brother, a lien over the lands, mills, fishings, the church patronage of Newdosk, the Templar lands, called the Dowcroft, Brewtack, and the office of baillie of said lands in the regality of Torphichen.

It may be noticed that of the Stratons who settled in the parish, David, a son of Andrew Straton of Warburton and a nephew of John Straton, who purchased Balfour, was tenant of Fodra, above the Bogs of Fodra, now the Lake of Fasque. A son David succeeded him, and another son James, tenant of Drumhendry, was twice married and had twenty children, chiefly daughters, and the most of them were married to farmers in the parish. The late Alexander Straton, M.D., of Bath, born at Balmakelly, Marykirk, was

a great-grandson, who helped the writer in this enquiry ; and another descendant, a generation later, is the Rev. William Straton Bruce, D.D., parish minister of Banff. David, lord of Edzell, died in 1698, and that was probably the date when Balfour was acquired by Peter Forbes, whose name appears in a minute of presbytery as heritor of Balfour in 1723. After him James Forbes appears in 1737 and subsequent years. He died in 1762 and was succeeded by his son Andrew, lieutenant in the 19th regiment of foot, who as Captain Forbes sold the Woodtons to Lord Adam Gordon in 1774, and the rest of the property thereafter to Sir Alexander Ramsay Irvine. The old people of thirty years ago spoke of him as the "daft laird of Balfour." The "laird" on a certain occasion met Sir John Stuart of Fettercairn, and politely, as he thought, asked if Lady Jane was well. Sir John indignantly replied, "What business has a man of your stamp to ask about her?" "Oh! yes, I have, she asked for me one day; and she's better than you deserve for a lady."



## CHAPTER XIV.

## BALBEGNO.

THERE has been given in a previous chapter some account of the ownership of Balbegno at different periods down to 1488, so far as it is ascertainable. After that date the feudal owners of the same and of other contiguous lands were Andrew Wood and his successors. They were also thanes of Fettercairn, with arbitrary power over their vassals and all within their domain. They could fine, scourge, imprison, and even put to death without appeal to common law. The particular places where these powers were carried out will be described in connection with Balbegno Castle.

The family of Wood, originally De Bosco, was probably of Norman origin. Several of its members were eminent churchmen. William de Bosco acted as clerk to King William the Lion (1165-1214) in his courts at Forfar, Kinghorn, and Selkirk. This William was Chancellor of Scotland and Bishop of Dunblane. About 1240 Ralph de Bosco was Bishop of Aberdeen, and confirmed a grant of the Church of Aboyne to the Knights Templars. Towards the end of the thirteenth century the De Boscos gained a footing in the north of Scotland. In course of time the name was changed to Wod or Wood, and among other owners of lands in the county of Aberdeen appears the name of Andrew Wod of Overblairton, Belhelvie, in

the reign of James III. A grant of the Castlehill and Stocket wood of Aberdeen was made to him by that king ; but this grant, being contrary to Robert the Bruce's Charter to Aberdeen, was revoked by James IV. After the battle of Sauchie near Stirling, fought on 18th June, 1488, when James III. was killed, James IV. became king. On the 26th of the same month, at Perth, a grant of the lands of Balbegno and of the thanages of Fettercairn and Aberluthnot was made to "Andro Wod of Overblairton, Belhelvie, and his spouse Mariota Moncreife." His designations were *Camerarius*, *Ballivus*, and *Receptor*, or Chamberlain, Baillie, and Receiver of the king's rents from the said thanages and from other crown lands in the county of Aberdeen. James IV. treated Perkin Warbeck, the pretended Duke of York and claimant of the English throne, as his guest, and laid a tax on the country for his support. Andrew Wood was collector of this tax for the part north of the Forth, and was paid certain sums of money for his labours. The annual rent of Balbegnoth was twenty merks. The lands of Easter Strath and the Barony of Balmane, which by reason of non-entry had been for twenty-six years in the king's hands, were granted to "his familiar servitor Andro Wod." This allocation continued till 1510, when the lands and Barony were granted to John Ramsay. In the Burgh Records of Stirling, the following entry appears, viz.: "March 18th, 1503. Oure sovrane lord ratifyt and approvit ye charter of confirmation and gift maid to Andro Wod ischar of ye chaumer door of ye feu of ye lands and thanedom of ffethirkern and Abirluthnot after ye form of his infestment maid to him thereuppon." His fee as usher was £13 6s. 8d.

The charter of confirmation above referred to was granted in 1498. Although a lengthy document and written in Latin, it is, for its minute and interesting details, worthy of a place here, as follows:—

“*Jacobus Dei gracia rex Scotorum, omnibus probis hominibus tocius terre sue clericis et laicis Salutem. Sciatis quia nos ad nostram perfectam etatem viginti quinque annorum completorum existentes post nostram ultimam generalem revocationem de omnibus donacionibus per nos nostra tenera in etate datis et concessis factum, nostro revolventes animo accurateque considerantes diuturnum, continuum, bonum, et fidele servitium quondam nostris nobilissimis parentibus patri et matri, quorum animabus propicietur Deus, et nobis per dilectum et fidelem familiarem servitorem nostrum Andream Wod de Ovirblairtoun, cubili nostri hostiarium, longo tempore retroacto impensum et per eum nobis in dies continuatum, volentesque eidem pro hujusmodi suo servicio in aliquo recompensare ne suscepti videamur obsequii immemores, dedimus igitur, concessimus et confirmamus, et hac presenti carta nostra damus, concedimus, et confirmamus dicto Andree totus et integras terras et thanagia nostra de Fethirkerne et Abirluthnot cum suis pertinenciis jacentes infra vicecomitatum nostrum de Kincardin, quas terras et thanagia cum pertinenciis dictus Andreas nunc de nobis habet in assedacione pro toto tempore vite sue cum officiis camerarie et balliatus earundem, necnon unam partem ipsarum terrarum et thanagiorum per nos sibi in feodo et vitali redditu datam per alias nostras literas sub nostris magno et secreto sigillis desuper confectas: Tenendas et habendas totas et integras predictas terras et thanagia de Fethirkerne et Abirluthnot cum suis pertinenciis dicto Andree et heredibus suis masculis inter ipsum et Mariotam Muncreife legittime procreatis seu procreandis, quibus deficientibus heredibus masculis dicti Andree de corpore suo legittime procreandis, de nobis et successoribus nostris in feodifirma et hereditate imperpetuum, et ipsis omnibus heredibus masculis predictis deficientibus, nobis et successoribus nostris libere revertendas, per omnes rectas metas suas antiquas et divisas prout jacent in longitudine et latitudine, in boscis, planis, moris, marresiis, viis, semitis, aquis, stagnis, rivolis, pratis, pascuis et pasturis, molendinis, multuris et eorum sequelis, aucupacionibus, venacionibus, piscacionibus, petariis, turbariis, carbonariis, lapiciidiis, lapide et calce, fabrilibus, brasinis, brueriis, et genestis, cum curiis et earum exitibus, hereyeldis, bludwitis et merchetis mulierum, ac cum omnibus aliis et singulis libertatibus, commoditatibus, et asiamentis, ac justis pertinenciis suis quibuscunque, tam non nominatis quam nominatis, tam subtus terra quam supra terram, procul et prope, ad predictas terras et thanagia cum pertinenciis spectantibus seu juste spectare valentibus quomodo-*



libet in futurum, libere, quiete, plenarie, honorifice, bene et in pace, sine aliquo impedimento, revocatione, seu contradiccione per nos aut successores nostros quovismodo inde fienda in futurum : Reddendo inde annuatim dictus Andreas et heredes sui masculi supradicti nobis et successoribus nostris pro predictis terris et thanagiis cum pertinenciis quinquaginta tres libras sexdecim solidos et quatuor denarios ac tres martas dictas rynmartis vel quindecim solidos pro qualibet pecia earundem, ac domino de Drumry viginti libras pro annuo redditu de eisdem terris et thanagiis ex antiquo exeunte, necnon uni capelanno in ecclesia cathedrali Brechinensi annuatim tres libras sex solidos et octo denarios usualis monete regni nostri ad duos anne terminos debitos et consuetos, prout in nostri scaccarii rotulis continetur, nomine feodifirme tantum pro omnibus aliis oneribus, exaccionibus, questionibus et demandis que de dictis terris et thanagiis cum pertinenciis per quoscunque juste exigì poterunt quomodolibet vel requiri. In cujus rei testimonium magnum sigillum nostrum apponi precipimus, testibus reverendo in Cristo patre Willelmo episcopo Abirdonensi, nostri secreti sigilli custode, dilectis consanguineis nostris Georgeo comite de Huntlie domino Baidyenach, cancellario nostro, Archibaldo comite de Ergile domino Campbell et Lorne, magistro hospicii nostri, Patricio comite de Bothvile domino Halis, Alexandro domino Hume, magno camerario nostro, Roberto Lundy de Balgowny milite, thesaurario nostro, et dilectis clericis nostris Ricardo Mureheid, decano Glasguensi, secretario nostro, et Waltero Drummond, decano Dunblanensi, nostrorum rotulorum et registri ac consilii clerico, apud Striveling, decimo die mensis Marcii anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo nonagesimo octavo et regni nostri undecimo. Collacionatum cum originali et tenet in omnibus, teste manu propria ; Ricardus Roberti.”

A translation of the above made by an eminent Latin scholar, A. F. Hutchison, M.A., late of the High School of Stirling, is as follows :—

“James, by the grace of God, King of Scots, to all good men of his whole land, cleric and laic, Greeting : Know ye, because we being at our perfect of twenty-five years complete, after our last general revocation of all donations given and granted by us in our tender age, for the long, continued, good and faithful service done to our umquhil most noble parents our father and our mother—for whose souls may God provide—and to us by our

beloved and faithful familiar servitor Andrew Wod of Ovirblair-toun *hostiarium*, of our chamber for a long time bypast, and continued by him to us from day to day, and willing to recompense the same for his service of this sort, that we may not seem forgetful of the duty undertaken,—therefore we have given, granted and confirmed, and by this our present writing give, grant and confirm to the said Andrew all and whole our lands and thanages of Fethirkerne and Abirluthnot with their pertinents, lying within our sheriffdom of Kincardin, which lands and thanages with their pertinents the said Andrew now holds of us in tack (or assedation) for the whole time of his life with the offices of chamberlain and baillie of the same, besides one part of the same lands and thanages given by us to him in feu and at a victual rent, given by our other letters made (complete) before under our great and privy seals: to be had and held all and whole the foresaid lands and thanages of Fethirkerne and Abirluthnot with their pertinents by the said Andrew and his heirs male lawfully begotten or to be begotten between him and Mariota Muncreif, whom failing, by the heirs male of the said Andrew to be lawfully begotten of his own body, of us and our successors in feufirm and hereditarily for ever, and all these heirs male foresaid failing to return to us and our successors, in all their proper ancient metes and divisions, as they lie in length and breadth, in woods, plains, moors, mosses, roads, paths, waters, lakes, burns, meadows, grasslands and pastures, mills, multures and their sequels, fowlings, huntings, fishings, peats, turfs, coalpits, quarries, stone and lime, workshops, breweries, heaths and broom, with courts and their profits, heregelds, bludewits and taxes payable on the marriage of female vassals, and with all other and singular liberties, commodities and easements and their just pertinents whatsoever, named and unnamed, both under the earth and above the earth, far and near, belonging or that in the future may in any manner justly belong to the foresaid lands and thanages with their pertinents, freely, quietly, fully, honourably, well and in peace, without any impediment, revocation or contradiction to be made in any manner by us or our successors in the future: the said Andrew and his above-said heirs male paying yearly to us and our successors for the foresaid lands and thanages with their pertinents 53 pounds 16 shillings and 4 pence, and three marts called *rynmartis* or 15 shillings for each piece (*i.e.* each mart) of the same, and to the laird of Drumry 20 pounds as annual rent from the same lands and thanages according to the ancient exit, as also to a

chaplain in the cathedral church of Brechin yearly £3 6s. 8d. usual money of our realm, at the two usual and customary terms of the year, as is contained in the rolls of our exchequer, in the name of feufirm only, for all other burdens, exactions, questions and demands which can in any way justly be exacted or required by whomsoever from the said lands and thanages with their pertinents.

“In testimony of which we order our great seal to be appended : Witnesses, the reverend father in Christ William, bishop of Aberdeen. keeper of our privy seal ; our beloved cousins—George, Earl of Huntly ; Lord Badenoch, our Chancellor ; Archibald, Earl of Argyle ; Lord Campbell of Lorn, master of our hospices ; Patrick, Earl of Bothwell ; Lord Hailes ; Alexander, Lord Hume, our great Chamberlain ; Robert Lundy of Balgowny, Knight, our treasurer ; and our beloved clerks—Richard Muirhead, dean of Glasgow, our secretary ; and Walter Drummond, dean of Dunblane, clerk of our rolls and register and of the council, at Stirling on the 10th day of the month of March, in the year of our Lord, 1498, and the 11th of our reign.

“Compared with the original, and correct in all. Witness my hand ; Richard (son of) Robert (Robertson ?)”

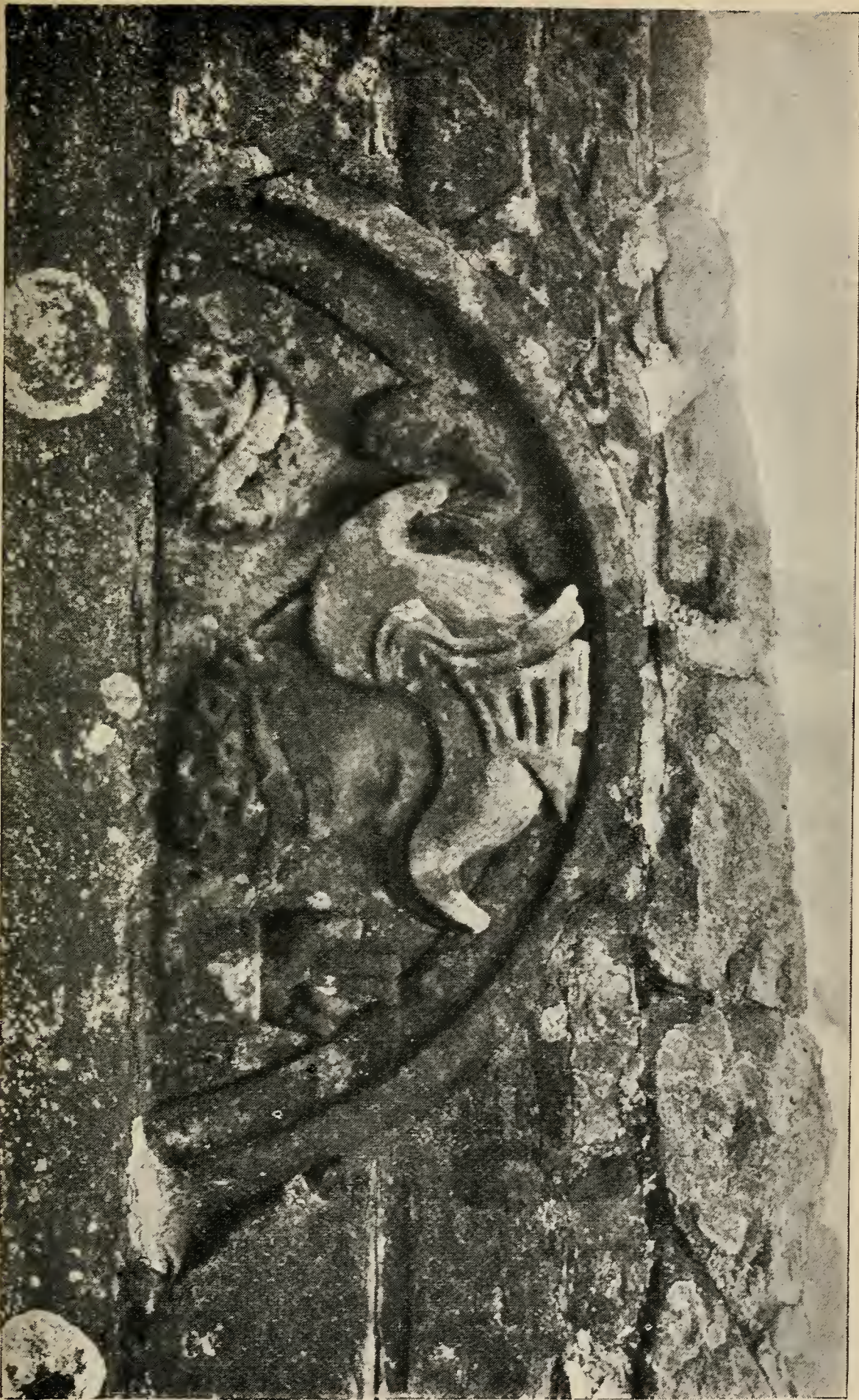
These old writings, now collated and brought to light, clearly prove that Andrew Wood of Fettercairn was not, as supposed and stated by some, the famous Admiral Sir Andrew Wood of Largo. They were contemporaries, and probably related as cousins, for the same christian names, Andrew, John, and Walter, are those of both families. The carved figures on Balbegno Castle give colour to this supposition. One of these, a male bust, with the left hand erect, three fingers extended, the face bearded, and the head with cap and morion, is now placed over the garden door, and may represent Admiral Wood in the attitude of a naval commander. The sculpture probably commemorates the great fight in the Firth of Forth, where Sir Andrew and his brothers with two ships captured the three which the English king had sent to make an end of the Scots power at sea. The trinity went down before the two on the left hand.



About 1512 Andrew Wood of Balbegno was succeeded by his son John, a minor, for whom, till 1518, his uncle, Robert Moncrieff of Curroqhuy, near Crieff, acted as tutor, and then a William Gordon, *sponsus matris* (his stepfather), assumed the duty. David Wood of Craig and a brother William Wood of Bonnington lived about the same time, and were related to John Wood. The sasine granted to him by James IV. in 1512 runs thus:—"The thanages of Fethircarne, Abirludnocht, Balbegnoth, Ballarno, Balnakadle, Fotheray, Thaneston, Molendini Perichcroft, Balmakewin, Molendini de Luther, Drumry, Officii Strath-auchin de Thorntoun, Brodland, Kirkton, and Wester Strath." His wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum. Balbegno Castle was built by them. Their son Walter succeeded in 1579, and married Helen Stewart, daughter of John, third Earl of Athole, whose great-grandfather was Sir James Stewart, "the black knight of Lorn," who married Joanna, the widow of James I. of Scotland. This gave the descendants of Walter Wood and Helen Stewart a connection with royalty. They had four sons, viz.:—Walter, Andrew, David and William. Walter succeeded in 1598, and after him, in 1607, came his son, designated Sir John Wood. To him a brother James was served heir in 1636, whose son Andrew succeeded in 1656. His infestment, by precept of Oliver Cromwell, confirmed to him

"The Manor place and Mylne of Balbegno, the lands of Balerno and astricted multures, Caldcoats, utherwayes called Tillifonten, Bonaketill and Strathnosen, Skairruids, the lands of Fetterkairn, the croft besyde the Nethermylne, the mylne of Blackelauche, (Boggindollo), with the office of chamberlanrie and bailyarie of the said lands, the lands of Strathester, with liberty in the Mure of Luther, and Moss of Balmayne, and power of pasturage of nolt and sheep, all united into the barony or thanage of and within the parochin of Fetterkairn. Entry, £12 13s. 4d."





HEAD AT BALBEGNO CASTLE.



In 1687 Andrew Wood sold the estate to Andrew Middleton of Caldham and Pitgarvie, the youngest brother of John Earl Middleton. Andrew Wood married a daughter of Sir Alexander Strachan of Thornton, and their son, Major James Wood, residing at Invereskandye, was factor to Lindsay of Edzell, and an elder of the church at Edzell. His wife was Margaret Jackson, and their daughter Jean married John Lindsay of Dalbog. Major Wood's great-great-grandson was the late John Wood, banker, Colinsburgh, who died in 1875, leaving a large family, one of whom, John, an eminent artist, resides at Bramerton Lodge, Carlisle. To him and to his wife now deceased, whose efforts and correspondence in tracing the genealogy of the Wood family were unwearied, the writer has been much indebted. The name of Wood became a leading one in the parish of Fettercairn, and continued to be so down to the beginning of the present century. Andrew Middleton got the lands of Caldham and Pitgarvie by his marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Charles Ramsay of Balmain. From a minute of Presbytery in 1683, he appears, some four years before his purchase of Balbegno, as an heritor of the parish and an office-bearer in the church, with the oversight of Earl Middleton's lands. After his death in 1699, his son Robert became proprietor of Balbegno, and married a daughter of George Ogilvy of Lunan. He died without issue in 1710, and bequeathed the property to his brother-in-law, John Ogilvy, advocate, who died in 1743, and by his wife Isabel Cochrane had four daughters, the eldest of whom, Girzel, married a Dr. Brisbane, and after her mother's death, in 1756, possessed the estate till 1778, when it was sold to the Hon. Walter Ogilvy of Clova for the sum of £7500. In 1819 his son, the Hon. Donald Ogilvy, succeeded, and, in 1846, sold Balbegno to Sir John Gladstone for £32,000.



## BALNAKETTLE AND LITTLESTRATH.

It was said that the cost of building Balbegno Castle impoverished the Wood proprietors and became a burden on the estate. Also, that Balnakettle and Littlestrath had to be sold to pay the debt. The former at least was not finally disposed of till the time of Andrew, the last of the Woods. In 1678, a retour of Balnakettle was made to "William Fraser, Merchant in Dundee, brother of Andrew Fraser of Balnakettle." Again, in 1682, another retour appears in favour of Mr Robert Reid, son and heir of the Rev. Robert Reid, minister of Banchory Ternan, for the "lands and dominical lands of Balnakettle, the plough land of Garden Plough, lands of Strathnossen, Skair, and manor place of Balnakettle in the Barony of Balmain, &c." The Rev. Robert Reid of Birnies and Balnakettle was a grandson of Robert Reid, also minister of Banchory Ternan, who succeeded his father, James Reid, the first Protestant minister of that parish after the Reformation. James Reid had other distinguished sons: Thomas, Greek and Latin secretary to James VI.; Alexander, physician to Charles I., who left a large bequest to his native parish; James, a surgeon and an eminent Latin scholar; Adam, minister of Methlick; and three daughters. The Rev. Robert Reid of Balnakettle had two sons: Robert of Balnakettle, and Thomas, who married Jane Burnett of the House of Leys. One of their sons was Robert, minister of Banchory, and another, Lewis, minister of Strachan, of whose first family was Thomas Reid, D.D. (1710-96), the famous Moral Philosopher. Margaret, a daughter in the second family, married in 1763 the Rev. Alexander Leslie (a descendant of the House of Rothes), minister of Durris and afterwards of Fordoun. They had seven sons and four daughters. Their eldest son was the much respected Dr. James Leslie, minister of Fordoun, who died in 1858 at

Stonehaven, in his ninety-fifth year. Their fourth and only married son, Alexander, had by his wife Jane, daughter of Sir William Seton, Bart. of Pitmedden, a son Alexander Leslie of Birkwood, Banchory Ternan, who had by his wife Johanna, daughter of George Hogarth of Woodhill, three sons and two daughters, and died in 1862. The younger daughter is Grace-Anna Leslie of Birkwood, who married Alexander R. Paterson, M.D., M.R.C.P. Of their family of two sons and two daughters, the youngest is Hilda-Maud Paterson, who favoured the author with Sir Walter Scott's letter, which will appear in chap xix.

So far as is known the next owner of Balnakettle, whether by heirship or purchase, was William Strachan, son of Charles Strachan of Balgays. In a Presbytery Minute of 1702 he appears as heritor of Balnakettle, and in another of 1704 his son Alexander as that of Littlestrath. William Strachan died in 1722; and shortly thereafter the lands were acquired by Dame Elizabeth Trent, widow of Sir James Falconer of Phesdo, a Lord of Session, who died in 1705. At her death, in 1748, their son John took possession. Lady Phesdo interested herself in parish affairs, and specially in the condition of the poor. A Kirk Session entry, in 1735, bears that she sent a request, with a donation, to summon a James Mitchell for "scandalous language to Captain Gordon at Arnhall." In 1766, a kinsman, James Falconer of Monkton, son-in-law of David, fifth Earl of Kintore, was served heir and took possession of Balnakettle and Littlestrath. In his absence, Sir Alex. Ramsay Irvine acted the part of resident landlord; and the tenants were bound in terms of their leases to perform services to him, like his own tenants. James Falconer of Monkton died in 1779, and his brother Peter succeeded. He died in 1797, and left the two estates to his cousin John, Viscount Arbuthnott. They continued to form parts of the Arbuthnott estates till 1852, when Balnakettle

was sold for £8500 to the late David Scott, builder, Montrose, and Littlestrath for £1000 to the late Rev. Dr. Pirie, principal of Aberdeen University. In course of a year or two the late Sir Thomas Gladstone acquired Littlestrath, and at a latter date Balnakettle. Their addition to Fasque estate makes it one unbroken stretch of territory.



## CHAPTER XV.

## BALMAIN AND FASQUE.

THE Barony of Balmain, as already noticed, was so designated in a charter dated 1475, and granted to George Earl of Rothes. How long he held possession does not appear. About 1471 Sir Walter of Beaufort held Fasque and Balfour. The times were unsettled. James III. was a weak monarch, and the Lindsays of Edzell were all-powerful in the district. The old rule held good :

“The good old rule, the simple plan,  
That they should take who have the power,  
And they should keep who can.”

Earl Beardie's son was created Duke of Montrose, with a grant of additional lands. He fought on the king's side—the losing one—at Sauchie, and his estates were forfeited. It fell to James IV. to grant these estates to his courtiers and favourites. Of these, as already stated, Balbegno was granted to Andrew Wood in 1488, and Balmain to John Ramsay in 1510. Of Ramsay's origin nothing is known, save that a Janet Napier was his mother. At the age of sixteen he acted as page to James III., when in 1481 the king with his favourites and the discontented nobles marched at the head of 50,000 men to invade England. And when, upon reaching Lauder, the favourites were hanged over the bridge, Ramsay was spared on account of his youth. Robert Lindsay of Pitscottie, in his *History of Scotland*, thus describes the scene :

“The nobles for despight took a hair tether and hanged Cochrane over the bridge above the rest of his complices.” . . . “The king was taken captive himself, and was had to the Castle of Edinburgh by the convoy of his Lords; and none escaped that was of his company, I mean his secret servants or cubiculars, but were hanged, except a young man called John Ramsay, who was saved by the king’s request, who, for refuge, lap on the horse behind the king to save his life. This Sir John Ramsay was Treasurer of Scotland and laird of Balmain. This act was done in the year of God 1481, in August.”

In 1484 he acquired the tenure of Crichton Castle, with the appointment of officer in the king’s household, an auditor of Exchequer, and a commissioner for the letting of the crown lands. He had a grant of lands in the counties of Perth and Fife, the title of Lord Bothwell, and in 1486 the custody of Dumbarton Castle. He was on three separate occasions an Embassy to England. After the battle of Sauchie, in June, 1488, the overthrow and death of James III., John Ramsay, the Earl of Buchan, and others, fled to England, and entered into a conspiracy to deliver up the young king of Scotland to Henry VII., he supplying them with money. Ramsay returned to Scotland and secretly acted as a spy and agent of Henry. In 1496, the year of Perkin Warbeck’s adventure in Scotland, he wrote letters to Henry, promising that “he would not fail to do good service and report the councils of James,” whose good-will and favour he had at the same time so far secured as to be appointed a member of the Parliament, with a tenement and orchard in the Cowgate, and subsequently a grant of the lands and barony of Balmain. The marriage of James IV. with the Princess Margaret of England, in 1502, led to the union of the crowns in 1603, and John Ramsay, the founder of the House of Balmain, notwithstanding all his faults, was instrumental in bringing about this happy consummation. He was twice married. His first wife was Isabel Cant, daughter of Thomas of

Dumbarton; and his second, Margaret Strachan of Thornton, who, after his death in 1535, married Alexander Ogston of Fettercairn. Sir John Ramsay was succeeded by his son William, who married Marjory, daughter of William Wood of Bonniton. A James Ramsay, who was probably related to Sir John, occupied Meiklestrath in 1509, and paid "victuals, muttuns, oxen and poultry" in name of rent.

The third laird of Balmain was David, son of William Ramsay. He married Catherine, daughter and eleventh child of Sir Robert Carnegie of Kinnaird, grandfather of David, first Earl of Southesk. One of their sons, the Rev. Andrew Ramsay, A.M., to be afterwards noticed, rose to eminence in the Church. Their eldest son, Gilbert, was served heir to his father in 1625. He was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia, and served for several years in Parliament as member for the county of Kincardine. As already noticed in the account given of John Earl Middleton, his first wife was Grizel Durham, and his second, a daughter of Auchinleck of Ballandro. Sir Gilbert was succeeded by his son David, and he also sat for the county in Parliament. The "rascal Irish Regiment" of 800 men that came over the Cairn o' Month in 1639, robbed and spoiled his property. By way of compensation he had a grant of 4000 merks from Government, and, in 1647, an additional grant of £500 for the ravages and excesses committed by the soldiers of Montrose. About 1650 he acquired the lands of Benholm, which were afterwards sold to Robert Scott. About 1674 Sir David was followed by his son Sir Charles, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir David Falconer of Glenfarquhar.<sup>1</sup> They had two sons David and Alexander, and a daughter Helen. She married Hercules Scott of Benholm, and the marriage

<sup>1</sup> Her mother was Margaret, daughter of Captain Robert Irvine of Monboddie. The Irvines and Ramsays were again connected in the person of Sir Alexander Ramsay Irvine.



contract was signed at Fasque by seventeen witnesses. In order to show the extent of the Barony of Balmain at this period, and give the names of some holdings in it now unknown, the retour to Sir Charles may be partly translated and quoted as follows:—

“ March 16th, 1674. Dominus Carolus Ramsay Miles, baronettus de Balmaine, haeres Domini Davidis Ramsay de Balmaine, in villa et terris de Balmaine, with the pendicles of Blaires and Bognothie (Blairbog and Bogmuir?) of Eslie, Burnsyde, Wester Strath, with mill and pendicles of Lonsched(?), Burnett’s land(?), and Drumhendrie, Mill of Fethercairn, 20 shillings yearly from lands in Fethercairn, lands of Faskie, commonty of Luther, Kincardine, Gallowmyres and Cammock, commonty of hill above Faskie,—old valuation entry £7 6s. 8d.—new entry £29 6s. 8d. Also the west third-part of Pitgarvie, Newbigging, Todholes and one-half the Waird of Arnbarrow, lands of Creichiteburn, Wallneuk(?), Jackstrath(?), and part Eister Strath. Old entry 20s.—new £4. Likewise the Mill-lands of Mill of Blacklatch (Bogindollo), Thenston and Loneley, Coathill, Dillathie (Dillally), three ploughgangs of Fodra (Brae of Fasque), Greengaits(?), Hairstonmure (or Nethermill), Braelandmure(?), Sandiehillock with pasturages: val. entry £12 13s. 4d.”

And in a previous charter:

“ The third part of the land of Heland-agoyne (now the manse glebe and field below), one-third of long and short Haltoun(?) : old entry 40s. ; new £8. Also the lands of Over Craignieston, including Goskiehill and Barehill, the Templar lands, Paroche Croft and Dirland of Fethercairn : old entry 10s. ; new 40s.”

The lands and croft last mentioned were held for the service of the Church. The Dira was the Kirk Officer, and his croft, as at Laurencekirk, was also called the Bellakers ; he being in charge of the church and funeral bells. Sir Charles died in 1697, and was succeeded by his son David, who, like his father and grandfather, was M.P. for the county. In 1706 he protested against the Act for the Treaty of Union with England. He improved the estate and planted the grand old beech and ash trees at Fasque.

His brother Sir Alexander succeeded him in 1710; and he introduced land drainage, the application of lime carried in creels on horseback over Garvock hill, the sowing of grass seeds, the building of stone dykes to enclose his fields, and about the year 1730 planted the double row of stately beeches alongside the avenue leading up to Fasque. He died in 1754; and a mortcloth entry, in the Kirk Session records, shows that he was buried, as probably his forbears were, in Fettercairn churchyard. He was succeeded in the estate and titles by his nephew, Alexander Ramsay Irvine, who had begun life as a Civil Service clerk in London. He married Mary, the daughter and sole heiress of Alexander Irvine of Savock, New Deer, and assumed the surname of Irvine, when in 1748 he became joint owner of Savock. He carried on in a remarkable manner the improvements begun by his uncle. Few men of his day did so much for the science of agriculture. He introduced the cultivation of turnips, and with the making of roads, the use of wheel carriages and other appliances hitherto unknown. He planted the larches, spruces, and silver firs in the den of Fasque; which, before his death in February, 1806, at the age of 91, grew to an immense size, both in girth and height. He took a lively interest in the affairs of the parish and the welfare of the community. He left £450 to the kirk session for the poor of the parish. His kinsman and heir-at-law, Captain Thomas Ramsay, in the service of the East India Company, became the seventh baronet, and dying in 1830 without issue the title became extinct. Sir Alexander bequeathed the estates to his nephew, Alexander Burnett, Sheriff of Kincardine, the second son of Sir Thomas Burnett of Leys, Bart., by his wife Catherine Ramsay. Sheriff Burnett assumed the name and arms of Ramsay, and was created a Baronet of the United Kingdom in May, 1806. His wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Alexander Bannerman of Elsick, Bart.; and for many

years previous they and their family resided at Fasque. They had seven sons and seven daughters. Alexander, the eldest, born in 1785, became second baronet at the death of his father in May, 1810. Thomas, the second son, became a captain in the 47th Regiment of Foot, served in the Peninsula and at Waterloo. He afterwards occupied Balbegno Castle, and, with the leading young men and farmers in the parish, instituted a target-shooting club, which, in 1826, developed into the Fettercairn Farmers' Club. His first wife was Jane, daughter of Patrick Cruickshank of Stracathro; and his second, Margaret Burnett of Crathes. He died at Banchory Lodge in 1857. The third son was Robert, a captain in the 14th Regiment. Another was Edward Bannerman, who became the well-known and highly distinguished Dean of Edinburgh. Also William, the admiral who commanded the Baltic fleet at the siege of Cronstadt in 1854. And Marmaduke, an Oxford student, who died young, at Duneaves, Fortingal, in 1834. Lady Ramsay was with her son during his last illness; and a subsequent act of kindness to the medical attendant led indirectly to a series of events in the writer's career which resulted in his lot being cast in Fettercairn. Her ladyship attended with motherly care to the education of her children. It is said that she taught her boys, as well as her girls, to sew and knit and even to mend their clothes. Dean Ramsay relates that, when they were boys at Fasque, Lord Monboddo was an occasional visitor, and that, from hearing their seniors' discussions about his belief that men were originally monkeys, they stole behind as he passed along the lobby for a peep of his tail! The new house of Fasque was almost ready for occupation when Sir Alexander died, as above stated, in May, 1810. The cost of building that stately mansion, said to be £30,000, led to embarrassment; and Alexander, the second baronet, who lived the life of a sportsman, added considerably to



the burden. He was open-handed and a very generous and popular landlord, as evinced by the handsome portrait, in the Ramsay Arms Hotel, painted by Sir David Wilkie, subscribed for and presented by the Fasque and Balmain tenantry at a public dinner in Fettercairn. He sold the Fasque section of the estate, in 1829, to the late Sir John Gladstone, Bart. He married, first, Jane, daughter of Francis Russell, Esq. of Blackhall, who died in 1819; and second, Elizabeth Maule, second daughter of the first Lord Panmure, with issue four sons and three daughters. At his death on 26th April, 1852, Alexander, his son by the first marriage, succeeded as third baronet. By his marriage, in 1835, with Ellen-Matilda, eldest daughter of John Entwistle, Esq. of Foxholes, Lancashire, he had four sons and one daughter; and resided with his family at Cheltenham. In 1855 he was appointed a Deputy-Lieutenant of Kincardineshire; in 1860, captain of the Gloucester Volunteers; and from April, 1857, to May, 1859, he represented the burgh of Rochdale in Parliament. He died on 3rd March, 1875. His eldest son, Alexander Entwistle, J.P. and Deputy-Lieutenant of the county, born 14th January, 1837, succeeded as fourth baronet, and married, first, in 1863, Octavia, youngest daughter of Thomas Haigh, Esq. of Elmhall, Liverpool—issue, two sons and three daughters; and second, in 1880, Caroline-Charlotte, daughter of the late James Ireland, Esq., M.P., of Ousden Hall, Suffolk, with issue one son.

It remains to be recorded that the estate of Balmain has passed into other hands; and the connection of the Ramsays with Fettercairn, which so happily existed for nearly four hundred years, is now a thing of the past. The subject of the Ramsay Bursaries at Aberdeen and St. Andrews remains to be noticed in the chapter on Bequests.

## CHAPTER XVI.

BALMAIN AND FASQUE (*continued*).

THE estate of Fasque, including Balfour, was purchased, as already stated, in 1829 by John Gladstones, the eminent Liverpool merchant, who in 1835 obtained Royal license to drop the final "s" of the name, and who in 1846 was created a Baronet, on the spontaneous suggestion of Sir Robert Peel, then Premier, and at a time when such honours were very sparingly conferred.

A writer in the *Scottish Review*<sup>1</sup> states that, in the thirteenth century, a tower on a rock near Biggar was occupied by the progenitor of the Gladstones, and that from the appellation of the "Gled's stane" the name became the patronymic of its owners.<sup>2</sup> Be that as it may, it is recorded that, in 1296, "Herbert de Gledestan del counte de Lanark" swore fealty to Edward I. of England.

A Sir William de Gledstanes figured in the wars of the fourteenth century, and the "winged lion" (the device on his seal) was possibly the precursor of the griffin rampant of the Gladstone crest. Sir William, in his later years, possessed the lands of Cocklaw or Ormiston, near Hawick, and this place continued for centuries to be the residence of his successors. Sir William's son, of the same name as himself, and also a knight, received from the king in 1365

<sup>1</sup> Miss Florence M. Gladstone, daughter of Dr. John Hall Gladstone, F.R.S. of London. *Scottish Review*, Apr. 1896. See also *Genealogist* for Jan. 1893.

<sup>2</sup> The farm occupying the site of the old tower, about four miles north of Biggar, is still called "The Gladstone."

a grant of lands near Peebles. About the same time there were Gladstones in Forfarshire: for example, Andrew de Gledstane served on an inquest at Brechin in 1364 regarding the holding of the fair there; and at a later date (the commencement of the sixteenth century) Robert Gledstanes was owner of lands at Craigo. He may have been father of Herbert Gledstanes, a prominent lawyer and burghess of Dundee about the middle of the same century. One of his kinsmen was proprietor of Arthursiel in the upper ward of Lanarkshire. Other notable personages were Herbert Gledstanes in the Scottish brigade of Gustavus Adolphus, and created a Swedish noble with property in that country; Mr George Gledstanes, Archbishop of St. Andrews from 1606 to 1615, Alexander his son being Dean till 1638; Francis and James Gledstanes, Covenanters, killed at the battle of Auldearn in 1645; and Captain James Gledstanes, of Fardross in County Tyrone, who raised a body of yeomen and took part in the defence of Londonderry in 1689.

During the eighteenth century the importance of the family may be seen from the valuation rolls of the southern counties of Scotland. Of the Lanarkshire (Arthursiel) branch, John Gladstones of Toftcombs, near Biggar, had by his wife, Janet Aitken, a son Thomas, a prosperous trader in Leith, who married Helen, daughter of Mr Walter Neilson of Springfield, and died in 1809. Their eldest son was Sir John Gladstone of Fasque and Balfour, born at Leith on 11th December, 1764. Trained to his father's business, he became, at the age of twenty-two, a partner in the house of Corrie and Bradshaw, corn merchants in Liverpool. His business gradually extended to America, the West Indies, China, and Russia. By his enterprise, industry, and business faculty, he amassed a large fortune; and for his munificence in the disposal thereof, especially in the building and endowing of churches, schools, and other



institutions, as well as on account of works of patriotism and public charity, it was well said of him by a recent writer, as of the centurion of old, "that he loved our nation and built us a synagogue." He built and endowed two churches in Liverpool, St. Thomas' Church in Leith, and there also a school, and an asylum for females, endowing it to the extent of £300 a year. He contributed largely to Trinity College, Glenalmond, to the fund for the endowment of the bishopric of Brechin, and at his own charge he erected and endowed a church, with a place of sepulture, at Fasque. Along with the Duke of Buccleuch he built the piers of Granton and Burntisland for the improvement of the ferry. One of his many improvements at Fasque was the transformation of the Bogs of Fodra, twenty acres in extent, into a beautiful lake, stocking it with fish and fowl. He erected the graceful spire of the parish church of Fettercairn, being for many years a regular worshipper there. A recent biographer writes: "Sir John was a remarkable man, of unbending will, of inexhaustible energy, and of absolute self-reliance; with a stern, strong, and imperious nature; pre-eminent in all those qualities which overcome obstacles, conquer fortune, and command the respect of the world." His eminent position as a merchant, together with his great talents and experience, gave much weight to his opinions on commercial matters. On mercantile questions he was frequently consulted by the ministers of the day. As a supporter of the protective policy, he contested the representation of Dundee and other places on Conservative principles. He acquired by purchase the estates of Balbegno and Phesdo; the former, as already noted, from the Hon. Donald Ogilvy, and the latter, which lies wholly in the parish of Fordoun from the late Alexander Crombie, Esq. of Thornton. Sir John was twice married: first, on 5th May, 1791, to Jane, daughter of Mr Joseph Hall of Liverpool, who died on

16th April, 1798, without issue; and, secondly, on 29th April, 1800, to Anne, daughter of Mr Andrew Robertson, Provost of Dingwall. By his second wife, who died on 23rd September, 1835, he had four sons and two daughters. The sons were: Thomas, the second baronet, born in 1804; Robertson of Court Hey, Liverpool, born in 1805; John Neilson of Bowden Park, Wiltshire, captain in the Royal Navy, born in 1807; and the Right Hon. William Ewart, Prime Minister of England, born in 1809. Sir John died on 7th December, 1851.

Sir Thomas was a distinguished student at Eton and Oxford. He took his degree of B.A. in his twenty-third year, and three years later he graduated M.A. In acknowledgment of his abilities, his Alma Mater conferred upon him in 1853 the degree of D.C.L. From 1827 to 1829 he represented the constituency of Queenborough, Kent, in the Conservative interest, a cause which he ever afterwards upheld. From 1832 to 1835 he sat for Portarlington; and from 1835 to 1838 for Leicester. In 1842 he was elected for Ipswich, but shortly thereafter was unseated on petition, although no blame attached to him. At the urgent request of his Conservative friends, in 1865 he contested the county of Kincardine, but without success. He continued, however, to take a warm interest in the affairs of the party to which he was so devoutly attached. As a landed proprietor, Sir Thomas was most honourable in his dealings with his tenantry; and if on some occasions the uprightness of his dealings was mistaken for hardness, there was behind the exaction of the bargain a generous heart. He became, by the purchase of Littlestrath in 1854, of Glendye and Strachan in 1856, and of Balnakettle in 1863, the largest proprietor in the county, in the general business of which he took an active, personal interest; and in 1876 was appointed the Lord-Lieutenant. He largely promoted the volunteer movement, and acted as a

lieutenant of the 4th Kincardineshire Volunteers. To encourage industrial occupations, he took a leading part, along with his lady and the Misses Gladstone, in getting up an exhibition of works of industry and art at Fasque in 1880; and a similar exhibition, on a larger scale, open to the whole county, at Stonehaven, in the following year. In the affairs of the Fettercairn Farmers' Club, Sir Thomas took the liveliest interest, by attending its annual meetings and dinners, by contributing liberally to its funds, and taking with his famous breed of polled Aberdeen and Angus cattle a leading place on the prize list. In parish work he took his full share, as a member of the School Board and of the Parochial Board; the support of the poor being his constant care. Sir Thomas married, in 1835, Louisa, daughter of Robert Fellowes, Esq. of Shotesham Park, Norfolk. Of their grown-up family, the two eldest daughters, Louisa and Anne, whose works of charity and deeds of love were as numerous as they were unostentatious, died in London, a few years ago, within a few days of each other. A younger daughter, Ida, met with a serious accident, and she died at Fasque. With Lady Gladstone there remain Miss Mary and John Robert, who succeeded to the estates and titles, at the death of his father on the 20th of March, 1889. Sir John was born in London on the 26th April, 1852, and this auspicious event was duly celebrated by a festive meeting of the tenantry and others in the Ramsay Arms Hotel. After receiving a liberal education, and attaining his majority in 1873, Sir John entered the Coldstream Guards, and served in the Egyptian campaign of 1882, being present at Tel-el-Kebir, and also in the Soudan expedition of 1885. He was promoted to the rank of captain, but on his succession to the Baronetcy he resigned his commission; and now, residing for the most part at Fasque, he worthily follows in his father's footsteps.



## CHAPTER XVII.

## DISCLUNE, ARNHALL AND THE BURN.

OF the lands and Barony of Disclune the earliest existing record is dated 1359, when the rents of Durrysclune were rendered by William the Keith, Sheriff of Kincardyn. An entry appears, one hundred years later, in 1456, bearing that a precept of sasine of the feu farm of Dusclune was made to Alexander Stratoun, Sheriff of Kincardyn; and another, in 1471, that, with others of lands in the Mearns, was granted to John de Strauchachtin of Thorntoun. In 1503, a charter of the same was granted to Alexander Straton of Lauriston and Elizabeth Ogstoun of Eglismaldys (Inglismaldie), and, in 1506, James IV. confirmed this grant to Alexander Straton and Agnes Ogilvy his wife, naming the lands of "Aurinhall, Discluny, Inche," &c., and a croft of land in the town of Kincardine. About 1527 some change of ownership took place, and Robert Bruce, Sheriff of Kincardine, accounted for the rents of Disclune. In 1580 Alexander Straton, heir of George Straton, was infefted in the barony and lands. In 1615 a Robert Gardyne, son and heir of Thomas Gardyne of Blairton, was returned in the lands of Chapelton as part of Arnhall. In 1631 Alexander, son of John Straton of Lauriston, had, in addition to the lands and barony of Newdosk and the advocation or church patronage of Fettercairn, a charter of Disclune, the peat moss, the mills, and salmon fishings on the North Esk, at a valuation entry of £12; also, the

*Villa* (town) *de Chapelton*, entry 5 merks 12 pence; the lands and fishings of Daledis, of Steelstrath, and commonty in Moor of Luther, entry 5m. 20d. Besides the Woodtons, all these lands shortly thereafter became the property of David, first Earl of Southesk; and at his death in 1658 he was succeeded by his son and heir James, the second Earl, whose sister Magdalene married the Marquis of Montrose. James went in 1639 with his brother-in-law Montrose to enforce the Covenant upon the people of Aberdeen, and, as quaintly described by Spalding, they, with the other commanding officers, squatted on the links; the army of 9000 men encamping round about. Robert, third Earl of Southesk, succeeded in 1669, but two years previous his cousin, David Earl of Northesk, was retoured in the lands of Dalladies, Steelstrath, and the Moor of Luther. In 1688 Charles, fourth Earl of Southesk, succeeded his father as heir of the said lands, including the Hill of Dalladies, the peat mosses, grazings, mills, and fishings on the North Esk. According to the Southesk Rental Book, 1691 to 1710 inclusive, in possession of the Earl of Southesk, the barony of Arnhall consisted of the following farms:—"Mayns, Milne Eye of Disclune, and Milne Lands, Inch, Chapelthouse and Hill of Dillydyes, Bogge-side, Moss-end, Dean-Strath, Steill-Strath, Tillytogles, Burne, Satyre, and Wood-Myres." The number of tenants on these was nearly seventy; and the gross rental amounted to 185 bolls, 2 firloths, 2 pecks and 3 lippies bear; 296 bolls, 3 pecks meal; £906 0s. 8d. Scots; 74½ capons, 65 hens, and 440 poultry. In 1700 James, the fifth Earl, entered into possession of the Southesk estates. He joined the Rebellion of 1715 and fought at the battle of Sheriffmuir, being the hero of the Jacobite ballad, "The Piper o' Dundee." He fled to France, and died there in 1730. His wife, Lady Margaret Stewart, daughter of the Earl of Galloway, had an allowance off

the forfeited estates for herself and her infant son, who died young. In 1716 the estates were purchased for £51,549 stg. by the Thames Water York Buildings Co. On the death of James, fifth Earl, his cousin Sir James Carnegie of Pittarrow, at the age of thirteen, became male representative, and but for the act of attainder would have been sixth Earl. His cousin Andrew Fletcher of Salton (Lord Milton) and Sir Alexander Ramsay of Balmain were his guardians, and they took means to secure his being brought up a loyal subject, although against the wishes of the Countess dowager, a Jacobite. In his behalf they memorialised Sir Robert Walpole, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and represented that in 1690 his grandfather Sir David Carnegie of Pittarrow had, by a Commission of the Privy Council, raised and armed a company of 400 men, with which he defeated the Highland rebels assembled at Cuttishillock ; after which the Highlanders reassembled, to the number of 3000, came down upon Sir David, plundered his house, robbed his tenants, and laid waste the lands of Pittarrow. In consideration of these losses, he was partially compensated by Government. Sir James was served heir and successor to his father in 1735, and through the excellent management of Lord Milton he was able, after the insolvency of the York Buildings Co., to purchase a large part of the Southesk estates. Arnhall was held on lease and occupied for a few years by Sir James, in succession to a previous occupier, Robert Stewart, Provost of Aberdeen. From 1741 till his death in 1765 he was Member of Parliament for Kincardineshire. In a letter to Lord Milton, in 1742, he wrote, "That catching fish in the river at Arnhall would have been a better trade than supporting a decayed administration is like to be, at least for this session." He entered the army as a captain in 1744, and in the following year served in Flanders, was at the battle of Fontenoy, and afterwards



with the Duke of Cumberland at Culloden; while his younger brother George of Pittarrow fought there on the side of the Pretender. In 1752 he married Christian, daughter of Doig of Cookston, Provost of Brechin. She survived till 1820, and died at Montrose, at the age of ninety-one. Towards the end of his career Sir James interested himself in the promotion of two famous lawyers, Lord Gardenstone and Lord Monboddo. Another intimate friend was Robert Barclay of Urie, the well-known agriculturist. On one occasion, in 1761, Barclay rode to Montrose to see Sir James before leaving for London; but having missed him, he wrote a characteristic letter, of which the concluding words were:—"I humbly join you, Sir James, in your prayer that we both be delivered from trials, lawyers, doctors, and from having dealings with unreasonable men." Sir James was succeeded by his son Sir David Carnegie, grandfather of the present Earl of Southesk. He bought Arnhall and The Burn, in 1779, for £7300; and, in 1780, sold The Burn section, lying north of the Gannochy Bridge road, to Lord Adam Gordon; and in 1796, Arnhall for £22,500 to Alexander Brodie, who had amassed a fortune in India. He was the third son of James Brodie of Spynie, Sheriff-Depute of Moray. Sir David Carnegie was from 1784 to 1796 Member of Parliament for the Montrose district of burghs, which then included Aberdeen; and in later years, till his death in 1805, he represented the county of Forfar. A kinsman, Captain John Carnegie of Tarrie and Seaton, still retained the right, till his death in 1880, to vote in county elections, as a nominal freeholder of Denstrath. In the early decades of the century the old people of the parish spoke with kindly feelings and pleasant memories of the Carnegie lairds and families.

Lord Adam Gordon, fourth son of Alexander, second Duke of Gordon, purchased the Woodtons, as already stated, from Captain Forbes of Balfour in 1774; and The

Burn from Sir David Carnegie in 1780. For both together he paid £5250, the annual rent being £113 11s. 11½d. For The Burn the price was said to be £300, and the rent 100 merks Scotch or £5 11s. 1½d. sterling. His lordship entered the army in 1746, and was promoted to a captaincy of the 3rd Foot Guards in 1755; was in the unfortunate expedition of General Bligh to France in 1758, and greatly distinguished himself in that campaign. He next became Colonel of the 66th Regiment of Foot, and served for several years in America. On his return home he was entrusted by the colonists with a statement of their grievances, which he laid before the Secretaries of State. In 1775 he was appointed Colonel of the 26th, or Cameronian Regiment; and in 1782 the governor of Teignmouth Castle. Lord Adam sat in Parliament for many years, having been first returned for the county of Aberdeen in 1754. He represented Kincardineshire from 1774 till 1788, when he vacated his seat, and in the following year was appointed to the command of the forces in Scotland, and took up his residence in Holyrood Palace. In 1798 he resigned the command in favour of Sir Ralph Abercromby, retired to The Burn House, which he built in 1791, and there he died suddenly on 13th August, 1801, from violent inflammation, produced by drinking lemonade while overheated. His wife was Jane Drummond of Megginch, widow of James, the second Duke of Atholl, she who jilted the gifted Dr. Austin of Edinburgh, and is the heroine of his song—

“For lack of gold she left me, O!  
And of all that’s dear bereft me, O!  
For Athole’s Duke she me forsook,  
And to endless care has left me, O!

Her Grace died at Holyrood in 1795. When Lord Adam took possession of The Burn, the lands were in the







wildest state of barrenness. The whole was an expanse of bare heath, without a single tree or any semblance of cultivation; the gravelly soil and water-worn stones showing that, in ages far remote, the river, now confined to its deep and rocky bed, overflowed the surface. For twenty years his lordship went steadily on with his operations; planted 526 acres of ground, converted much of the moor into arable land, and so completely changed the appearance and increased the value that it became a subject of wonder how so much could have been effected in so short a time. With much good taste the rocky banks of the river were thickly planted; the opposite side, on the Panmure estate, to the extent of ninety acres, was planted simply for ornament. The gravel walks, winding along the side and through the rocks overhanging the river, were formed at great expense; and from them the combined beauties of wooded cliffs and running water may be seen to advantage. Let the reader refer to the descriptive quotation from *Her Majesty's Journal*; and, at the same time, ponder over the fact that Lord Adam never dreamt his walks would ever be trodden by a "throned monarch," by a queen of these realms—the greatest of earth's sovereigns. This account of Lord Adam's improvements may best be summed up in the following words of Robertson, in his *Survey of Kincardineshire*, written by him early in the century:—"Comparing The Burn in its original state with the splendid appearance which it now makes, with its dignified mansion, extensive groves, beautiful lawns, elegant walks, shrubbery, gardens, vistas, lakes, etc., we might fancy ourselves almost transported into fairyland, or treading the regions of romance. It is a dreary desert made an Arcadian grove."

The following anecdote about Lord Adam and one of his workmen may be here related. A group of his riverside labourers were in the habit of taking a short siesta in their

work hours, and of setting one of their number to watch any approach of his lordship. On a certain day the man appointed also fell asleep at his post. Lord Adam came down upon him, and taking in the situation, said: "You are a faithful sentry. Had you been a soldier under me in the army, and falling asleep on the watch, I would have sent you to be shot; but in this case I can only dismiss you. Go, therefore, from my service."

On the death of Lord Adam Gordon, the estate, so greatly improved, was sold for £20,000, including £1000 for household furniture, to Mr Brodie of Arnhall. He carried on the improvements begun by Lord Adam, reclaimed some 400 acres of moor and moss land, built 500 roods of stone dykes, planted 200 acres of waste ground, and formed five miles of roads, one of which is the "Lang Straucht" leading from the North Water Bridge towards Glenesk. By his wife, a daughter of the Honourable James Wemyss of Wemyss Castle, he had a daughter, Elizabeth, to whom he left the estates, and who became the wife of the fifth and last Duke of Gordon, who died in 1836, and whose statue stands in Castle Street, Aberdeen. The widowed duchess piously devoted her life to works of faith and labours of love. John Shand, a West India merchant, purchased the estates of The Burn and Arnhall, in 1814, for £70,000, and continued the improvements effected by his predecessors. In 1818 he began operations on the moss of Arnhall. He cut the large drain called the "Muckle ditch,"  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles long, 9 feet deep, 18 feet wide at top and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  at bottom, as well as many smaller drains running into it at right angles. Upwards of 600 cartloads of gravel per acre were mixed with the moss to make a proper soil; and thus more than 200 acres of waste ground were converted into productive land. The belts of wood that now adorn the district were planted, and the roads that run alongside were also made. Mr Shand died in

1825, and was buried in the Arnhall enclosure of Fettercairn churchyard. He was succeeded by a brother, William Shand, who married, in 1827, Christina Innes of Dyce. From the failure of his West India business he became bankrupt, and the estates were purchased in 1836 by Captain, afterwards Major, William M'Inroy of the 91st Regiment, now the Argyleshire Highlanders, and he latterly ranked as Lieut.-Colonel of the Kincardineshire Volunteers. He was the second son of James M'Inroy of Lude, and married Harriet-Barbara, elder daughter of E. Isaac, Esq., banker, of Boughton, Worcester. She predeceased him on 2nd July, 1890, leaving a memory cherished for quiet and unostentatious acts of kindness and charity. Colonel M'Inroy was one of the most respected gentlemen of the Mearns. His genial and kindly disposition endeared him to all with whom he was brought in contact. His own saying that "He beat his sword into a ploughshare" was truly verified by his diligence as a practical manager of his home farms, and by the setting of a good example to his tenants, who regarded him as a kind and liberal landlord. He took a deep interest in the business of the Fettercairn Farmers' Club, of which he was many times president. In appreciation of his services and his zeal as an agricultural improver, the members and others subscribed and presented him with a valuable piece of silver plate, at the Christmas meeting of the Club in 1849. It is interesting to note that the presentation was made in a long and eloquent speech by Mr W. E. Gladstone, who at the time had been on one of his visits to Fasque. In parish and county business the Colonel took a leading part. He was for twenty-one years chairman of the Fettercairn School Board, for thirty years convener of the County of Kincardine, and also for the seventeen years to his death Vice-Lieutenant of the County. He was a promoter of The Burn and Fettercairn Curling Club already noticed.





and continued till far advanced in years to be a keen curler. He died universally regretted on 29th April, 1896, at the age of ninety-one, and was buried beside his wife in the lonely old kirkyard of Newdosk on the Braes of Balfour. He left the estates to his nephew, Colonel Charles M'Inroy, C.B., of the Indian Staff Corps, who with his wife, the eldest daughter of the late Alexander Hamilton, Esq., W.S., Edinburgh, and their family, reside at The Burn House.

#### PRIMROSEHILL.

A barren moorland, about thirty acres in extent, on the south side of the parish, formerly a part of Marykirk Parish, but recently annexed to Fettercairn, formed a detached portion of The Burn estate. In 1852 Colonel M'Inroy sold it to William Airth, a retired ship captain, residing in Arbroath. On taking possession, he trenched and drained the land and brought it into a fair state of cultivation. He carried on a brick-work for a few years on a corner of the ground. Besides a farmhouse and offices, a smithy and one or two dwelling-houses were also erected. Mr Airth gave the place the name of Primrosehill; but, in reference to its original barrenness, some of his waggish neighbours dubbed him "The Heather Laird," and he himself humorously owned the title. At his death, in September, 1872, he left the property to his nephew, William Airth, M.A., Accountant, Manchester, now residing at Lochlands, Arbroath.



## CHAPTER XVIII.

## DALLADIES.

IN the thirteenth century the lands of Delany, probably Dullachy and now Dalladies, were owned by Trembleys, or Turnbolls as they are now called. But at a later period and down to the eighteenth century, the lands of Dalladies were included in the grants of Balfour and Disclune to the Stratons of Lauriston, and after them to the Earls of Southesk. After 1715, and the forfeiture of the Arnhall estate, the lands of Dalladies appear to have been acquired by an old family, the Turnbolls of Stracathro. In 1718 John Turnbull of Stracathro was served heir to his father, also John, in the property of Dalladies. According to a Presbytery Minute of 1747, George Turnbull, W.S., Edinburgh, was then proprietor, and probably a son of the former. His wife was a distant relation of the celebrated Charles James Fox. Their son Alexander, afterwards known as the Rev. Alexander Turnbull, LL.D., born in 1748, succeeded, while yet a minor, to his father's property. Lord Gardenstone acted as his guardian. At his first outset he was apprenticed to Mr Walter Scott, W.S., father of Sir Walter Scott; but not relishing the profession of law, he studied for the Episcopal Church, was admitted to orders, and appointed curate successively of two parishes in Northumberland. The preferment to a rectory, through Mr Fox, was declined because he would not take the



customary oath required before induction. He retired into private life, residing in London, and latterly at Alnwick. His income from his estate was of limited amount; but being a man of frugal habits, his practice was in accordance with his jocular saying, "That he always took care to keep £5 between him and the devil." From his early introduction into good society, about the middle of last century, Dr. Turnbull was in dress, habits and manners, a gentleman of the "olden time." Though somewhat eccentric he was highly esteemed for sterling integrity of principle and never-failing charity. His fund of amusing anecdotes and interesting information regarding the past gained him the friendship of some of the most eminent men of his time; and specially among others, the Hon. William Maule (afterwards Lord Panmure), who, in his journeys to and from London, never failed to call upon him at Alnwick. On the occasion of a general election, he was asked to support a certain candidate for the county of Kincardine. He refused on the ground that the same gentleman had challenged Mr Fox to fight a duel; but consented upon receiving from Sir Alexander Ramsay Irvine a guarantee of the following conditions, viz.: "If the candidate were returned for the county he would, in his place in Parliament, vote against war and oppression of every kind, both at home and abroad, and against iniquity and injustice, whenever such might be attempted." On the publication of "Kay's Edinburgh Portraits," he, as one of the subjects, instead of taking offence like some others at the freedom used, purchased a large number of copies for distribution among his friends; but remarked that "the artist had represented him wearing unblackened shoes; whereas his shoes were daily cleaned and blackened!" To his tenants he was liberal and indulgent; and although in many things he required strictness and punctuality, yet he never exacted from them more than they were able to pay

for their lands. He died at Alnwick in 1831, in the eighty-fourth year of his age; and was succeeded in the estates of Dalladies and Cassindonald in Fife by his grandniece Miss Margaret Turnbull Robertson, to whom a Curator Bonis was appointed in 1846. She died in 1893, and a third cousin, Colonel George W. M. Turnbull of the Royal Artillery, and his nieces, the Misses Turnbull of the Priory, Torquay, are now conjoint owners of the estates.

#### DRUMHENDRY AND CAPO.

The lands of Drumhendry or Drumry, and probably those of Capo, from 1467 to 1520 were owned by William Livingstone, supposed to be of the Livingstones of Dunipace. The lands of Balmakewan and Luthra were also his property. About a century later, Kilnhill and Bent, in the parish of Laurencekirk, were owned by a James Livingstone. In a charter of lands, already quoted, to John Wood of Balbegno, in 1512, Drumry was included, but how long in possession of the Woods is uncertain. In 1636 Andrew Raitt was served heir to his father, David, principal of King's College, Aberdeen, in the lands of Balmakewan; and it is supposed that Drumhendry formed a part of his property, because, in 1702 and 1703, Colonel Robert Rait appears in the presbytery records as heritor of Drumhendry. About 1675 Alexander, the second Lord Falconer of Haulkerton, became proprietor of Capo, and probably of Drumhendry, about 1675. Alexander the fourth lord died in 1727, and was the last that occupied the Castle of Haulkerton; after which Inglismaldie became the family seat. In 1778 George, Earl Marischal, died, and Anthony Adrian, the eighth Lord Falconer, succeeded to the estate of Kintore, as well as to the title of Earl of Kintore, which Earl Marischal had never assumed; and

the family surname was changed to Keith-Falconer. Drumhendry and Capo have continued in possession of the family; and the present noble Lord Algernon Hawkins Thomond, who was born in 1852, and succeeded his father, Francis-Alexander, in 1880, is the tenth in succession. He married in 1873 Lady Sidney-Charlotte Montagu, daughter of George, sixth Duke of Manchester. The eldest son and heir-apparent is Ian-Douglas Montagu, Lord Inverurie, who was born in 1877.



## Part Fourth.

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# ANTIQUITIES : BUILDINGS, ANCIENT AND MODERN.

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### CHAPTER XIX.

#### ANTIQUITIES AND OLD BUILDINGS.

**R**OMAN ROAD. The old Roman road, through Strathmore from the Tay to the Dee, crossed the North Esk at the Kingsford (a modern name), and passed through the south and east side of the parish. Traces of Roman works remain on the farms of Dalladies and Capo, probably for a temporary station of the army when crossing the river, and held by some to be the station of Tina. From this point the road extended along the drier ridges of Drumhendry and past Causewayend, on the line marked by the "Cattle Raik" or "Cowpers' Avenue," still seen at Bentycrook; whence the route was direct to the camp at Mains of Fordoun. Dr. William Don, in his elaborate *Archæological Notes*, makes the Roman Iter pass through the parish of Marykirk, with a branch to Kincardine Castle. If so, what of Causewayend? which means the end of some stone-paved roadway over the adjoining bog, and made, as supposed, only by the Roman legions.

HILL OF ESSLIE. This height, now crowned by its stately beeches, was no doubt in ancient times a site of importance. Alongside the Roman road it might form an outpost. Except a few boulders lying about, nothing is left to indicate whether any house or castle stood there. But tradition reports that there was an old castle and a garden. It may have been in the fifteenth century the local residence of the Livingstones of Drumhendry. According to the *Memoranda* of the late James Middleton Paton of Montrose, his ancestor, Andrew Middleton of Pitgarvie and Balbegno, factor on the Middleton estates, resided at Esslie. And midway between it and Balbegno stood the old house of Balmain (*the Midtown*), which, according to a vague tradition, communicated by an underground passage with Balbegno, and had its site on the rising ground east of the present farmhouse, where its foundations were come upon at the trenching of the field about eighty years ago.

GREENCAIRN. The Castle of Greencairn, previously noticed as the residence of Fenella, was originally an ancient fort, erected at a very early period, probably by the first of the Celtic race that peopled the land, at their invasion of western Europe. Like some other strongholds of the same character, and partly like that on the hill of Finhaven, it consisted of a central building with vitrified walls, and an outer surrounding rampart or erection of dry stones, enclosing a wide open-air space, and affording protection and security to the indwellers and their goods in times of danger. At such times, communication, by means of beacon fires as signals of alarm, could be held with all the hill-forts within view in Angus and Mearns. In these two counties the only other vitrified fort is that of Finhaven, and the reason may be that upon the other hills fire-wood was scarce or the stones were not sufficiently

fusible. At Greencairn some scattered fragments of its walls may still be seen. Parts of these walls, in the early years of the century, stood a foot or two above the surface; but they soon shared the fate of other old castle walls; they were quarried by some local Goths and Vandals for stones to build dykes and farm steadings. The huge stone ramparts of Catterthun escaped demolition only because they were too far up the hill and too difficult to remove. In Chalmers's *Caledonia* the ruins of Greencairn, as in 1798, are described, and their dimensions are given, from a report by James Strachan, gardener to Lord Adam Gordon, as follows:—

“It is of an oval form, and is surrounded by two ramparts. The outer rampart is built with dry-stone, without any lime or mortar, and without the least mark of any tool; and under the foundation are found ashes of burnt wood. The space betwixt the outer and inner ramparts measures 93 feet 9 inches. The inner wall is 30 feet thick, and has *all undergone the operation of vitrification*. The area within this is 140 feet long; 67 ft. 6 in. broad at the east end; and 52 ft. 6 in. broad at the west end. The elevation (of the site) on the north side is about 40 feet, and fully 60 feet on the south side, where it is all wet, mossy ground.”

Additional information regarding the ruins of Fenella's Castle is furnished by means of an unpublished letter of Sir Walter Scott, written after his visit to Dunnottar and Fettercairn in 1796, and addressed to the Rev. Mr Walker, minister of Dunnottar. His son-in-law and biographer, J. G. Lockhart, states that “the visit was to the residence of the lady who had now for so many years been the object of his attachment”; and alludes to the said letter, which is now in possession of Miss Paterson of Birkwood, Banchory, who has graciously favoured the writer of these pages with a perusal and the liberty to enter it here *verbatim*, as follows:—



“ My Dear Sir,

“ I take my first moment of disengagement to let you know the result of my enquiries at Lady Finella's Castle, which is in my opinion at least decidedly in favour of Tytler's opinion. I was detained at Fettercairn House by the hospitality of Sir John and Lady Jane two or three days longer than I expected, from which you will easily guess Miss Belsches was recovered and able to see company. Thus I had plenty of time on my hands, which I employed in causing two labourers begin at the ring or vallum immediately without the main compact, and cut down till they came decisively to the original soil. This outer embankment I found to consist of a mound of stones of no very considerable size, none of which, as far as I could perceive, had suffered from fire, tho' I have upon this as well as several other occasions to regret my want of chemical and mineralogical knowledge sufficient to enable me to decide with certainty. We then continued opening our trench, still digging down to the soil, till we came to the very foundation of the main and innermost Bulwark. You may guess my satisfaction when on laying this bare I found the most unequivocal marks of human industry. It consists of oblong flat stones from 4 to 6 feet long, piled above each other to the height of about 4 feet and breadth of 3, with symmetry more exact than could have been expected. This foundation formed a kind of casing within which were piled, apparently by the hand, large bullet stones, which, I presume, were prevented from spreading inwards by a similar pile of large flat stones corresponding to that on the outside, and thus a firm foundation had been obtained for the mound to be raised above, which, as far as it now remains, consists of Bullets, etc., diminishing gradually in size to the very top. Upon all this mass the effect of fire was very visible, and at the bottom I found quantities of charcoal, but these effects were much less remarkable below, and appeared more and more strong upon the higher stones till you came to the top, where the mass was completely vitrified. Thus the whole was probably constructed as follows: First two walls of large flat stones were erected parallel to each other at a distance corresponding to the height of rampart, of which this was to be the base; that rampart I take to have been composed of branches of trees and stones, the latter gradually diminishing in size from that of the large round bullets which occupied the interval between the two casing walls of the foundation to a size which could be more conveniently raised to the height of the top of the mound. Supposing such a fabric to

be surrounded by 3 or 4 external ramparts of loose stones, it wd compose such a fortification as I take the fort of Balbegno to have been when entire. Again supposing it to have been stormed and set on fire, it is obvious that the lower part being composed of huge stones would suffer little from the heat, that the middle would suffer more, and that the stones composing the uppermost part of the mass would, if their substance admitted it, be actually vitrified, both from their size and situation, the fire always operating upwards, for the same reason what charcoal found its way to the bottom of the mass would not be totally consumed; and thus I account for the appearances I have detailed above. My works are already almost filled up with rubbish and some of the foundation stones carried off, but I am convinced you will find upon examination that the appearances are uniform.

“I am dying to hear about the Well at Dunottar, &c., &c., &c. I am likewise anxious about my old Ballads; and I hope you will add to the many favours I have already to acknowledge, that of writing me very soon. My address is Georges Square, Edin<sup>r</sup>. Compliments to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Logie and Wood. I hope they do not faint in the good work; if so, I refer them to you for strength and consolation.

“I have visited a beautiful ruin called Eagle (Edzell) Castle, and was delighted. I have seen Caterthun, and was astonished.

“I hope this will find your whole famillé from Nelly to Macgriegar inclusive in good health. Meantime, we do most strictly charge you and command to keep an account of the Well expenditure, and transmitt it to us for a settlement of Accot<sup>s</sup>; and so we bid you heartily farewell.

“Given from our Inn at Kinross the sixth day of May, jaivii<sup>c</sup> <sup>1</sup> (1700) and ninety-six years.

“WALTER SCOTT.”

The accompanying fac-simile illustration of the fourth page shows how letters were folded and addressed on the back before the invention of envelopes. The fig. “5” stands for *fivepence*—as the postage from Kinross to Stonehaven to be paid by the receiver.

<sup>1</sup> This contraction, for 1700, is in the old style of date writing and stands for *i*=one thousand, *ai*=anni (years), and *vii<sup>c</sup>*=seven hundred.

and I hope you will add to the many fa-  
vours I have already to acknowledge that of  
writing me very soon - My address is George's  
Square. Edinb. - Compliments to Miss Logie  
Wood - I hope they do not faint in the good  
work - if so I refer them to you for strength  
& consolation - I have visited a beautiful ruin  
called Eagle Castle & was delighted - I have seen  
Calder there & was astonished I hope this will find

Letter

Mr Wally Scott

about Queens

Scott's castle

1798

The Rev. Mr Walker

Brunnator Manor

Long Street By Stirling

h

find your whole family from Kelly to Margaret  
inclusive in good health - Thank you. We do most  
obediently charge you & command to keep an account of  
the well expenditure & transmit it to us for a  
settlement of acc'ts - so we bid you heartily farewell  
given from our Inn at Kinnaird the sixth day of  
May forty & ninety six years  
Walter Scott

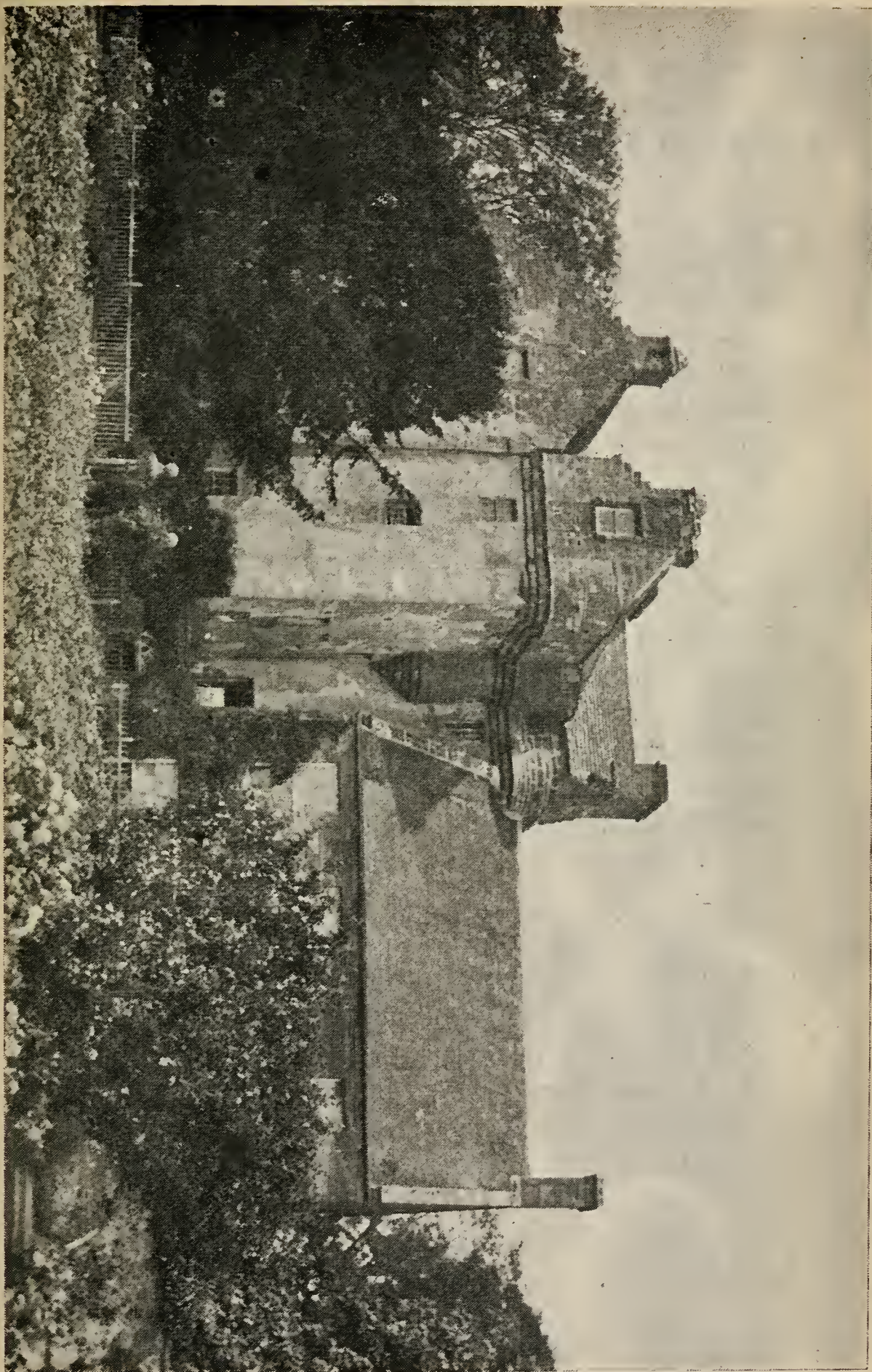


Of Fenella's Castle after the murder of Kenneth, the only record is that of John de Fordun, who relates that "the King's companions, missing him, broke into the house, and finding that he was murdered, consumed the town with fire, and reduced it to ashes." Whether the castle was ever afterwards restored or occupied is a matter of conjecture. The two hundred years that elapsed before the grant of Balbegno lands by William the Lion to Ranulph the Falconer are a complete blank in the history. Greencairn as a residence was very likely doomed, and, instead of it, Balbegno, or *the little new town*, became the manor-place. Other three hundred years elapsed before the building of Balbegno Castle; and whether, during those five centuries, the seat of the feudal superiors was at Greencairn, Balbegno, or elsewhere, cannot now be determined.

BALBEGNO CASTLE. The date 1569, the figures of two males and one female, the inscription "I. Wod and E. Irvein" below a shield with the Wood and Irvine arms, all on a carved panel above the highest front window of Balbegno Castle, show that it was erected in the time of John, the second of the Woods, proprietors of Balbegno and Thaness of Fettercairn. The building, which has been kept in good preservation and recently repaired by Sir John R. Gladstone, is a fine specimen of the old baronial style, four storeys high with double oblong roof and an open bartizan along the top and around its east side and corner. Upon the bartizan are three medallion heads, one male with hat, and two females; and upon other parts of the walls are several shields with arms, possibly those of the founders of the castle. Over a side door of the garden is the male bust, already described alongside its illustration, supposed to represent the famous Admiral Wood, but it had no doubt a more honourable place on the east front of

the castle, and must have been removed by the Ogilvys when, in 1795, they built the plain and homely addition, commodious enough as a dwelling, but which spoils considerably the original building from the covering up of the principal front entrance. Some stones bearing the Wood and Barclay arms were also removed and carried to Caldham, where they may be seen stuck up in the wall of an outhouse. All the figures on the castle are boldly carved in freestone, and in the style of the famous "Stirling Heads." As Thanes of Fettercairn, the Woods bore, in addition to their paternal coat of an oak tree, two keys fastened to a branch. The walls of the building being five or six feet in thickness and pierced with loopholes, are significant of the times when it was built. The most striking internal feature is the large hall with its groined freestone roof and ornaments, some grotesque and others floral, one of which bears the Irvine arms. The ceiling has two shields, one with the Scotch lion and the other with the Wood arms. The sixteen vaulted compartments held mural paintings of the coats and mantlings of as many Scotch peers. Damp and decay have defaced the most of them, and have obliterated the very names and titles, which may be noted as follows:—Over the door on the right is, 1, Lauderdale or Wemyss(?); 2, blank; 3, Montrose; 4, (?); 5, Erle of Orkney; 6, Gordon(?); 7, Erle of Murray; 8, blank; 9 and 10, blank. On the south side, 11, Bothwell; 12, Argyle; 13, Crawford; 14, Errol; 15, Eglinton; and 16, blank. Every feudal castle had its dungeon; and so had Balbegno its dark underground cell, entered from a back passage by a massive wooden door of oak studded with large-headed iron nails, which, with its heavy bolts and strong locks, defied any attempts to escape of the poor wretches therein immured. Every old castle had likewise its Motehill (Mod, a court), where the feudal baron held his court and judged all civil





BALBEGNO CASTLE.



and criminal cases arising in his own district. This heritable right of jurisdiction was abolished after the Rebellion of 1745. Criminal offenders were executed—the men by hanging on the Motehills, now known as “Gallowhills,” and the women by drowning in the *Mort-toun-holes*, or “Muttonholes” as these are now called. The Motehill of Balbegno was the “Tod-hillock” of our day (*Taed*, Saxon, death)—the wooded knoll on the roadside between Balbegno and Greencairn. It was no doubt the tribunal hill of the district during the long ages that preceded the erection of Balbegno Castle and the sway of the Woods. The Muttonhole was in the springy hollow of the field above the present high road, and about a hundred yards right across the same from the Tod-hillock. Thirty years ago, a group of old cottar houses, formerly croftsteads, on the same spot were cleared off for the plough. They were known as “Muttonhole.” The “*Taed’s Nest*” (hangman’s dwelling) was the name of a small croft and homestead razed out about the same time. It occupied the adjacent roadside corner of the park nearer the castle. “Randall’s Knap,” east of the village, as already noticed, may have been Earl Middleton’s motehill.

**BALFOUR HOUSE.** The old house of Balfour, which stood on the spot now occupied by the present farm steading, was a plain two-story edifice, of large dimensions, and was built, as supposed, by the Stratons, proprietors, in the seventeenth century. After the estate was sold to Sir Alexander Ramsay Irvine, the house, somewhat antiquated and with no tenant, fell out of repairs, and, in 1809, was pulled down for its stones to the building of Fasque House. The strongly built walls had to be blasted with gunpowder.

**FASQUE OLD MANSION-HOUSE.** The flat space, west of

Fasque House, now laid out as a bowling green and flower garden, was the site of the old mansion-house and offices. They are quaintly described, as in 1780, by Francis Douglas in his *East Coast of Scotland*, thus:—

“Fasque House stands a long way distant from the main entry, and is partly eclipsed by a large group, nearly in front, of old Gothic buildings, churches, abbeys, &c. As the antiquary approaches, with reverence and high expectations, how cruelly is he disappointed to find them a mockery! Mere patchwork on the ends and sidewalls of common offices! ‘What an indignity,’ he is apt to exclaim, ‘is here offered to the venerable remains of antiquity! O ye sacred retreats of virtue and purity, in whose peaceful groves wisdom and science walked hand in hand; shall even your shadows be thus dishonoured by the breath of clowns and bellowing of oxen.’ Chagrined by this disappointment, it is well if he does not mistake a fine octagonal tower which lifts its head above the trees, on an adjacent mount, for a pasteboard cage. The house fronts south, and makes three sides of a square; there are many good apartments in it, especially the dining-room and library. Just by the west end, there is a den or hollow, with a Chinese bridge thrown over it, and a small brook in the bottom. It is planted and laid out in serpentine gravel walks. The house is well sheltered on all quarters, especially on the north and north-west.”

**BALNAKETTLE HOUSE.** The old house of Balnakettle stood, where some old trees remain, some distance east of and nearer the burn than the present farmhouse. Of its appearance, as a proprietary dwelling in the early part of last century, nothing is now known.

## CHAPTER XX.

ANTIQUITIES AND OLD BUILDINGS (*continued*).

**MARKET CROSS.** The Market Cross of Fettercairn—an object of much interest—stands in the village square upon a flight of six concentric octagonal steps, each one foot in height, which have been several times renewed. The shaft, octagonal, fixed into the top base, is, with its surmounting capital, ten feet in height. It has on one side a line cut out, 3 feet  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, representing the Scotch ell; and into another side is inserted an iron ring and links, to which the old instruments of punishment called the *jougs* were fastened. The *jougs* consisted of an iron collar placed round the neck of the offender, with another part called the *branks*—a sort of cage over the head with a piece entering the mouth to silence and punish scolds and termagants, who had there to suffer the vile indignities of the multitude. Outside the doors of many old parish churches the fixings of the *jougs*, and of the *stocks* for the feet, may yet be seen. The marks of wear on the shaft of the cross bear evidence of frequent use. The capital is four-sided, and has on the west side the arms of the founder, John, first Earl of Middleton, which were a lion rampant within a double tressure; and on the east side, his coroneted initials. On the south side is a sundial, and on the north the date 1670. The history of the cross is more or less a mystery. The popular belief is that it was the market cross of the old town of Kincardine, and



that it was removed to Fettercairn in 1730 ; but of this no record exists. Biscoe, in the *Earls of Middleton*, asserts that, in 1670, the first Earl erected it in memory of his wife Grizel Durham. But in that very year he was granted a renewal of the royal licence (originally granted, in 1504, to Adam Hepburn and his wife Elizabeth Ogston) to hold markets and erect a cross in Fettercairn ; and the probability is that the capital bearing the date of 1670 was made for Fettercairn, and not for the fast-decaying town of Kincardine, which, as the county town previous to 1607, had its own cross, said to have been removed to Fettercairn in 1730 ; but whether to take the place of a shaft older than the present one cannot now be determined. In any case, it looks very much older than its capital, and may still be the original shaft of the cross erected in 1504.

Other crosses in the Mearns are those of Bervie, Stonehaven, and Marykirk. The Marykirk cross stood just within the gate of the churchyard till 1857. Some time thereafter the Rev. Mr M'Clure reported to a writer on crosses : " My predecessor wished to be interred at the spot where it stood, and it was thought good to remove it to its present stance." The same writer, a Mr Drummond, states that in Scotland some seventy-eight crosses remain, and nearly all in the eastern half of the country. Treating of them, he says :—

" Crosses were no doubt originally ecclesiastical, and their transition from this character to their ordinary use is simple. In rude and lawless times, we can suppose a paction of any sort being considered binding if contracted at a cross with its sacred significance. This would perhaps be rendered doubly sure if, while hand-fasting, they touched with the other hand the cross. The place where it was situated thus becoming a place of bargain-making, and gradually losing its religious significance, its very cruciform shape disappeared, until at last it was transformed into the ordinary market cross."

Royal proclamations were also made at market crosses ; like as they are still at the cross of Edinburgh, to which Sir Walter Scott thus refers in *Marmion* :—

“ Dun-Edin’s cross of pillared stone  
Rose on a turret octagon,  
But razed is now that monument  
Whence Royal edict rang ;  
And voice of Scotland’s law was sent  
In glorious trumpet clang.”

CASTLE OF KINCARDINE. Among the objects of antiquarian interest remaining to be noticed are the ruins of the Castle or Palace of Kincardine and its adjacent old town, now extinct. Although outside the boundary of the parish, they are in close proximity, upon the lands of Fettercairn estate, and within the scope of this history. The ruins of the castle, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles north-east of the village, stand on a projecting eminence, now wooded, but formerly surrounded on three sides by the waters of the Ferdur, which were not wholly drained off at the beginning of the century. After the burning of the castle in 1646 the walls, of unknown height, became a quarry to supply stones for the houses, and at a later period for the field dykes and drains of the well-cultivated farm of Castleton. Seventy years ago, when the late Sir John S. Forbes returned from abroad to enter upon his property, he very properly put a stop to these proceedings. He also caused excavations and searches to be made in the ruins for relics of the past, but none were found. According to measurements taken by the late Robert Milne, architect, and the writer, the walls, in some parts, stand 8 ft. high. The outer walls of three sides of the building, constructed on the sloping principle, are 10 ft. thick ; and the front wall, with its projecting watch towers and small-sized apartments, is 20 ft. in thickness. The north and south walls are each 130 ft. in length, with an entrance, midway in each, 8 ft.

wide. The east and west walls are each 140 ft. Along the interior of the east wall are two apartments 80 ft. by 25 ft. and 18 ft. by 20 ft., and along the north wall are other two 55 ft. by 25 ft. and 27 ft. by 18 ft. The inner walls of all these apartments are 5 ft. in thickness. The rest of the interior formed a court or hall, 90 ft. by 82 ft. The sides of the great fireplace of the hall were, not long ago, entire, and so were the lower steps of a staircase leading to an upper flat, of whose extent or accommodation nothing is known. The time of the castle's foundation is likewise unknown. But the hard and hammer-dressed sandstones point to the time of William the Lion (1165–1214). Upon this elevated site, however, some kind of royal palace stood as early as the tenth century, when Kenneth III. and other kings of Scotland made history in the Mearns. In the reign of Alexander I. (1107–1124) it was a place of note; for the first royal charter, granted by that king to the town of Stirling, was dated “at Kyncardyn, 18th August, 1119.” Successive sovereigns, notably William the Lion, Alexander III., and Robert the Bruce, sojourned there. Its designation in Bruce's charter of Auchcairnie arable lands to Sir Alexander Frazer of Cowie is, “Our manour of Kyncardyn.” In 1296 the scroll of John Baliol's resignation of the crown was written there; and Edward I., on his journeys to and from the north, lodged in the castle. In 1341, when David II. and his queen, returning from France, were driven ashore at Bervie, they betook themselves to Kincardine. Robert II. held his courts and juries in the castle, and issued charters from it dated 1371, 1375, and 1383. James IV., the founder of King's College, Aberdeen, and Margaret his queen, paid visits in 1507 and 1511. Queen Mary halted at Kincardine on her northern tour in 1562. By charter of James VI. the Strachans of Thornton occupied the castle from 1601 till its demolition in 1646. They likewise



held the adjacent lands. Prior to their time the Earls Marischal were in possession. In 1532 James V. granted a charter to William the fourth earl to make the town of Kincardine the capital of the county. It consisted of a row of straggling clay-built *biggins* and crofters' holdings along the present old road from its "east port" near the castle, about three-quarters of a mile to the "west port" near Fettercairn House. For lack of proper accommodation and for better security against Highland raiders, the County Courts were transferred in 1607 to Stonehaven. The town decayed; and in 1730 its market cross and the fair of St. Catherine were removed to Fettercairn. In the first decade of the century it was reduced to a few houses with about eighty inhabitants. Nothing is now to be seen but the squared-up fields of Castleton farm; and in one of them stood St. Catherine's chapel, where remains only the graveyard, disused for many years, but preserved from the plough by an edging of trees planted by the late Sir John S. Forbes, Bart. Two small and primitive headstones, with the names and dates, William Ross, 1739, and William Taylor, 1786, are the only monuments left to mark the ground where "the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."

Stone cists have from time to time been discovered in the vicinity of Kincardine. In 1871, at a sand pit on the side of Huntershill, one of these was laid open. The sides and ends were formed of rough slabs placed on edge, and the top of three flat stones each six or seven inches thick. Its length was  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ft., breadth  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft., and depth 2 ft. It contained a bent up skeleton of large size, probably that of a chief or leader buried where he fell. The skull and thigh bones were pretty entire, but they crumbled down on exposure to the air. On the right side, and near the head, was found an empty clay bowl of rude workmanship, 6 in. wide and 6 in. deep, with a black streak round the interior, showing that it had been half filled with the food

which, according to the custom of the ancient Britons, was one of the things laid in the tomb beside the dead body.

**THE DEER DYKE.** An interesting object of great antiquity is the Deer Dyke, which surrounded and enclosed the Royal Hunting Park of the palace of Kincardine, and which included within its boundary the Hunter's hill, 600 feet high, the lands of Lammasmuir and Arnbarrow, with the hill above rising to the height of 1000 feet; also the lands of Bogendollo and the Garrol hill, 1000 feet in height. Its eastern boundary was formed in part by the rocky banks of the Knowgreen tributary of the Ferdur water. The northern boundary, in the valley behind Arnbarrow hill, is well defined by a stretch of the dyke which appears as a raised bank, very conspicuous to the eye, on the left of any one ascending the Cairn o' Mount high road. It runs westwards for a short distance, and again reappears crossing the head stream of the Garrol burn that divides the parishes of Fordoun and Fettercairn. Traces of the dyke appear behind the Garrol hill; and on the west side, at the source of the Crichtie burn, alongside the Whitestone wood downwards till it disappears on reaching the arable lands above Fasque. Its length all round is not less than eight miles, and it encloses an area of about five square miles. Along the patches of boggy and grassy ground, as well as at the crossing of the burns, no trace of the dyke appears. A stockade of felled trees probably formed the fence, not only in the watery hollows, but more or less on the top of the dyke, as to the animals of the chase an ordinary bank would be no obstacle. We are not left to doubt as to its antiquity; for the old chroniclers relate that Kenneth III., who met his death at Fettercairn in 994, "lodged in his Castell of Fethircarne, where there was a forest full of all manner of wild beasts that were to be had in anie part of Albion." And in an

account of the parish of Birse occurs the following:—"On part of the farms of Deerhillock and Kirkton, on the estate of Aboyne, and between the church and Marywell, there appears a narrow slip of ground which is said to have been fenced with a deer dyke by order of King Kenneth III., for confining deer to stock his park near his palace of Kincardine, in the brae of the Mearns."<sup>1</sup> In the Exchequer Rolls an entry is recorded that, in the thirteenth century, when Alexander III. was king, a charge of seven merks was made for fencing "a new park" at Kincardine; but whether it was an addition to the Deer park, or what it was to enclose, is not known.

<sup>1</sup>The New History of Aberdeenshire, by Alexander Smith, C.E., 1875.



## CHAPTER XXI.

## BRIDGES, FORDS, AND FERRIES.

A FEW of the bridges in the parish, and of those on the roads leading into it, may properly be reckoned as ancient buildings. A connection long existed between bridge-building and public worship. The head priest of the Roman College of Pontiffs was called the Pontifex Maximus, or great bridge-builder; and the Pons Sublicius, or wooden bridge over the Tiber, was constructed and upheld by him. In later times the clergy devoted their attention to the building and repairing of bridges. Wild water courses and impassable ravines were the chief impediments to attendance on divine worship. The condition of bridges and roadways became the care of the church; and in Scotland collections were made by order of the General Assembly. For instance, the writer was informed by the Rev. John Falconer that, during the incumbency of a predecessor in the parish of Ettrick, a collection was made for a bridge on the North Esk (probably the old bridge at Marykirk); and another for a bridge over the Dee at Braemar. The North Esk was often impassable, and accidents by ford and ferry were of frequent occurrence. Commenting upon these, the minister of Marykirk, the Rev. John Brymer, about 1790, writes very sagely in the Old Statistical Account, as follows:—"It is to be observed that the North Esk, in rapid torrents, not only descends

the Grampian hills, overtops its banks and inundates the valleys below, but with impetuous violence sweeps everything before it, so that strangers ought by no means to enter rashly into the river." Its fords and ferries leading to and from Fettercairn were: 1, The Cobleheugh ferry, with its adjacent ford at Marykirk. 2, The same at Pert (the water port) further up the river. 3, The "king's ford" and ferry at Capo. In 1730 the Kirk Session of Fettercairn, in reply to the minister of Stracathro, granted £3 Scots to the ferryman, who had lost his boat by a spate; and some time thereafter he came to say "that he had gotten on his boat." 4, The ford of "Sandyford," and the ferry on Linn Martin at Chapelton. About the middle of last century John Gibb and his wife, Helen Law, from the inscription on their headstone in Fettercairn Churchyard, were tenants of Chapelton, and kept the brew-house or inn of Sandyford, with its ferryboat. 5, "Sclateford," below the village of that name, now called Edzell. And 6, The "Loups" ford, and the ferry above, where, on the Sundays two hundred and forty years ago, when Newdosk ceased to be a separate parish, the Kirk Session of Edzell paid to "Andrew, the minister's man, 20 shgs. Scots for putting ye people of Newdosk over the watter in a coble." Of the bridges over the North Esk the first to be noticed, though not directly connected with the parish, is the lower North Water Bridge between Montrose and St. Cyrus. It was first projected by Thomas Christie, Provost of Montrose, and a native of Fettercairn. He died before the work was subscribed for, but his son Alexander, who succeeded him as provost, carried out the design. The foundation was laid in 1770, and after five years was finished at the cost of £6500, of which King George III. gave £800. Two tablets on the south parapet record these details, and also: "Traveller, pass safe and free along this bridge, built by subscriptions in the town of Montrose and

two adjacent counties," etc.; and in Latin, which may be translated: "Traveller, pass on in safety, and be mindful of the king's bounty." The present bridge, of four arches, at Marykirk was built by a joint-stock company, at a cost of £10,000, and opened for traffic in 1815. Tolls and pontages were levied upon it until, under the Roads and Bridges Act of 1875, the rights of the company were redeemed and the charges laid upon the county road rates of Forfar and Kincardine. A vague tradition exists that, at a very remote period, a stone bridge crossed the river at Marykirk or Aberluthnot, or confluence of the Luthnot. The upper North Water Bridge at Pert is the next to be noticed. It was first built in the sixteenth century by John Erskine of Dun, the friend of Knox and the superintendent of Angus and Mearns. Concerning the builder, tradition (as reported in the Old Statistical Account) says:

"That having had a dream or vision, that unless he should build a bridge over 'Stormy Grain,' where three waters ran into one, he would be miserable after death. Accordingly, going out one day in a pensive mood and walking along the banks of the North Esk, he met an old woman near the spot where the bridge now stands, and asking the name of the place, received for answer that it was called 'Stormy Grain,' where three waters run in one. Hence, recognizing this to be the spot to which his dream alluded, he immediately set about building a bridge there; but the bridge being founded and the work going on, a spate in the river swept it away; upon which he ordered the work to be begun anew. But after it was considerably advanced, it tumbled down a second time. Mr Erskine was now so much discouraged that he fell into a deep melancholy and kept his bed. One day, however, he observed a spider making two unsuccessful attempts and succeeding the third time to form its web, he took courage, caused the work to be resumed, and had the good fortune to succeed."

How long that bridge stood, or when it gave place to the present structure, is not known. It is, however, on record that, about 1669, David Erskine of Dun repaired the bridge and petitioned Parliament to let him levy



customs for a certain number of years. This was granted, and also the power of holding there an annual fair in the month of October. Of the old bridge, a portion of the north end and up side wall appears as a part of the present structure. The Arnhall and Edzell suspension bridge for foot passengers, erected in the end of last century, may be passed without farther remark. The Gannochy bridge, higher up the river, on the Fettercairn and Edzell main road, may be described, by quoting in the first place, from the Statistical Account of the Parish, the words of the Rev. Robert Foote, written about 1792, as follows:—

“There is a remarkable bridge called Gannochie bridge upon the west side of this parish. It is thrown across the N. Esk river, consists of one arch 52 feet over, stands on two tremendous rocks, and is justly admired as a singular curiosity both in regard to its situation and construction. It is with pleasure the writer hereof takes the opportunity of making public the name and condition of the person at whose expense that useful work was raised. James Black, who was tenant in the farm of Wood and parish of Edzell, agreed with a mason for 300 merks Scotch, and to lay down all materials. James was a very ingenious man, and built the parapet walls with his own hands. . . . Three hundred merks was a large sum to give sixty years ago, and the deed deserves to be recorded. The bridge was built in 1732. Besides the above 300 merks, Mr Black left 200 merks to the poor of the parish of Fettercairn and fifty merks for upholding the bridge. Both sums were left to the management of the Kirk Session here, and from this circumstance the incumbent thinks it proper to publish these good deeds as worthy to be remembered and imitated.”

So much for Mr Foote's account; but Mr Black left additional sums for other useful and pious purposes: 300 merks to build a bridge over the Cruick at Balrownie, on the Brechin and Lethnot road; as well as 500 merks to endow a school at Tullibardine in his native parish of Lethnot. On his tombstone there his good deeds are recorded, and in addition this couplet:—





GANNOCHY BRIDGE, GLENESK, N. M. 128

GANNOCHY BRIDGE.



“ No bridge on earth can be a pass to heaven,  
To generous deeds let yet due praise be given.

“ Memento 1746 Mori.”

Jervise, in his *Land of the Lindsays*, confirms a story which appears to have had its foundation in that above related of John Erskine and the Northwater Bridge. It is that, about 1731, several lives were lost in attempting to ford the river in the vicinity of the Gannochy, and that the spirit of one of the drowned men made three successive midnight calls on Mr Black, and implored him to build a bridge and prevent further loss of life. And also that, yielding to this request, he built the bridge at the very spot the spirit pointed out. Mr Foote does not allude to this story. A less sensational account of Black's motive, which the writer got from the late Walter Strachan and he from his mother who knew Black in his later years, bears that, owing to a serious difference with the Kirk Session of Edzell, he attended Fettercairn church, crossing the river on horseback by the old ford above the “Loups Brig.” Finding this very inconvenient, and being himself a mason, he hired workmen and built the bridge which, by his somewhat ungrateful neighbours, was nicknamed “Black's Grey Mare.” The sequel of Walter's story is that James Black incurred a heavy debt and disappeared for a year and a half; after which he returned with money enough to meet all his liabilities, and likewise at his death, in 1750, to suffice for the discharge of the aforesaid bequests. In 1752 his brother Robert, tenant of Clochie in Lethnot, handed to the Kirk Session of Fettercairn the monies left for the poor and for the upkeep of the bridge. Of it the Kirk Session were zealous custodians, and took great pains to prevent damage from heavy traffic. At that period the millstones required in the district were brought from Forfarshire; and when a new one was wanted, the tenants thirled to the mill, turned out in a body to roll it axle-tree-



wise to its destination. For this purpose the new bridge became an easier way than the fords of the river. But the Kirk Session objected, and, in terms of a lengthy minute in the year 1755, they complained to the sheriff and he interdicted the practice. The bridge was then only half its present width, having been widened as it now stands in 1796, at a cost of £300, by Lord Adam Gordon and William Lord Panmure. The great flood of 4th August, 1829, filled the rocky gorge, which measures, from the crown of the arch to the bed of the stream, about thirty feet. The suspension footbridge called the "Loups Brig," still further up the river, was erected by Lord Adam Gordon. An iron railing and gate with lock and key were at the same time erected on the Edzell end; but some ill-disposed persons, under night, tore up the gate and part of the railing. As no trace of these was left, they were no doubt hurled, stones and all, into the deep dark pool below. The bridge of Auchmull stands outside the parish; but it may be mentioned because it bears an inscription that, in 1820, William Lord Panmure and John Shand of The Burn built it; and that the latter contributed 100 guineas for its erection and for the making of a new road outside what are now The Burn policies. The Glenesk people forcibly opposed the changing of the road, but they became reconciled when Mr Shand intimated his contribution.

From the end of the seventeenth century to the middle of the eighteenth the "pious work" of building bridges was largely promoted, not only by individual bequests, but by means of church collections and the proceeds of vacant stipends. In 1722, collections, averaging £6 Scots, were made in Fettercairn church; one for the bridge on the Black burn below Meiklestrath, another for a bridge on Cruick water, and a third for one in the parish of Kirkden. And in several years following down to 1752, for bridges in Lethnot, Stracathro and Benholm; also for those at

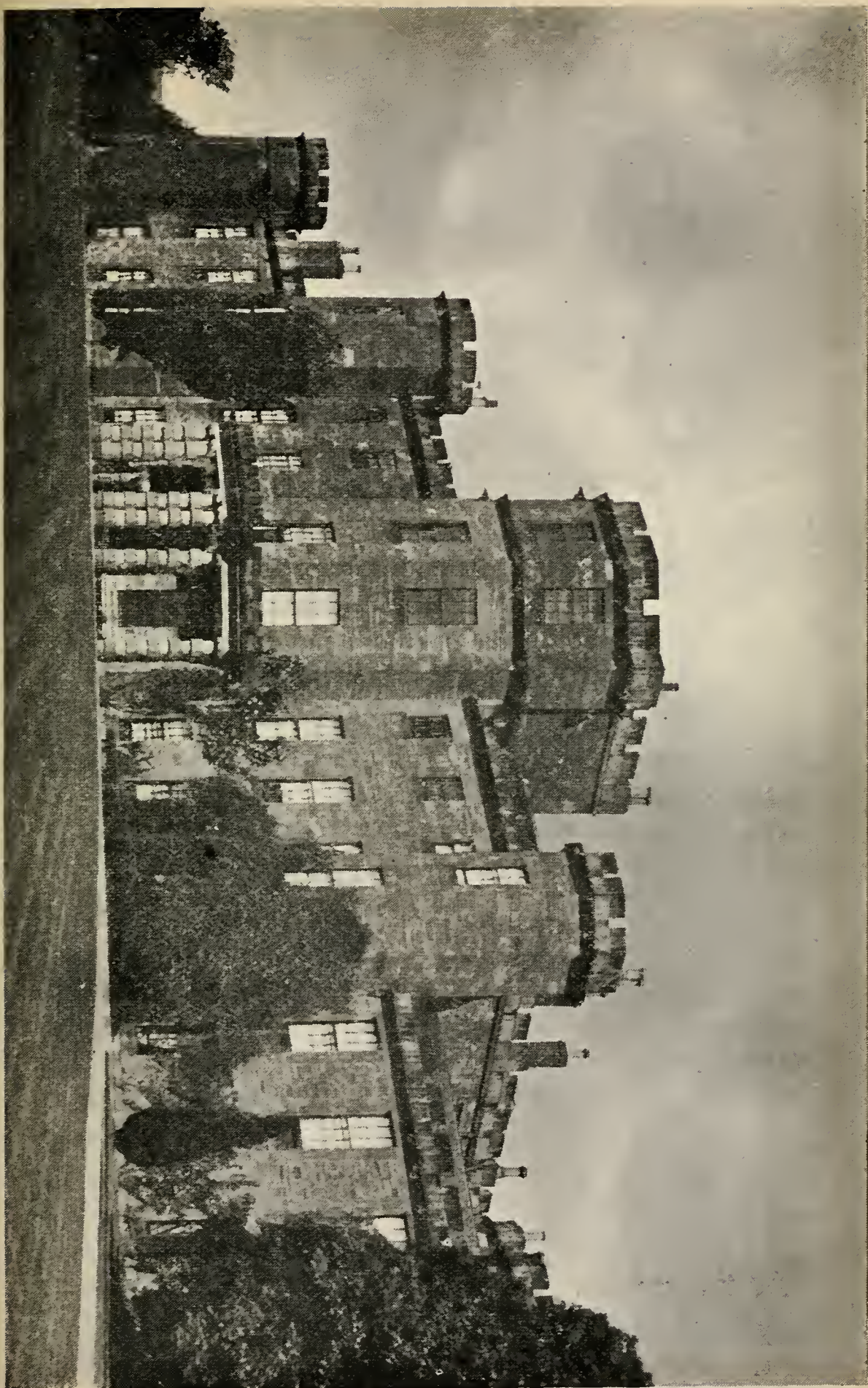
Cowie, Mill of Halkerton, Mill of Luther, and on the Mooran above Edzell. The bridge of Bervie was first erected in 1699 from the proceeds of vacant stipends; and Fettercairn church being vacant in that year, the stipend was available.

On the 11th May, 1727, the Presbytery of Fordoun resolved,

“ On the recommendation of Sir Alex. Ramsay, principal heritor of Fettercairn, to expend the half-year’s stipend during the late vacancy (in 1723) on building a stone bridge over the two small rivulets, which run, the one upon the west, and the other upon the east side of the town of Fettercairn, and which for want of bridges are very ‘unsalve’ in time of speats and in the winter season to the people of the Parish in their going to and coming from church.”

The subject of bridges may be concluded, by referring briefly to one of the six or seven roads that radiate from the village; because it was first made by Baron Sir John Stuart to afford better communication with Laurencekirk, but without any idea of its ever becoming what it now is—the busiest and most frequented road in the district. Its zigzag turns beyond the Luther are accounted for by the fact that the landowners would consent only to a narrow way round between their fields instead of a direct line through them. The Blackiemuir bridge, in like manner angular and awkward, has a tablet bearing the date, 1786.







## CHAPTER XXII.

## MODERN BUILDINGS.

FETTERCAIRN HOUSE is partly ancient and partly modern. The old part is a plain three-story building, long and narrow, but commodious for its time, and midway in dimensions between the cramped old castle and the modern country-house. With the flower garden in front, it faces the south, and on the door lintel are the initials of John Earl Middleton and Grizel Durham, with the date 1666. An elegant addition, in the Elizabethan style, forming a new frontage to the north-west, was built in 1829 by the late Sir John H. S. Forbes, Bart. A handsome and convenient suite of rooms and offices on the east side was added by Lord Clinton in 1877; and now Fettercairn House is, perhaps with one exception, the most commodious mansion in the county. That exception is Fasque House, a superb building in the English baronial style, and of a castellated form, with towers and battlements, and a stately dome and cupola rising from the centre. Facing the south, and standing on a gently rising ground, it commands a most extensive and beautiful view of the Howe and the surrounding country. It was built by Sir Alexander Ramsay in 1809, at a cost, it is said, of £30,000; and some idea of its dimensions may be formed from the fact that the masons' and builders' wages were only 1s. 6d. a-day. The fire, in 1872, which threatened to destroy the whole of the mansion, has been already noticed.

The Burn House, erected by Lord Adam Gordon in 1791, was for many years the largest, most elegant, and best mansion in the parish. Of plain but substantial appearance, it is nevertheless, with the natural beauties of the situation, the most delightful residence in the county.

THE ROYAL ARCH. In commemoration of the Queen's visit to Fettercairn, as described in a former chapter, the leading inhabitants of the village and the gentry of the district set about the erection of a fitting memorial. Owing to the lamented death, in the interim, of the Prince Consort, a difference of opinion arose as to the form the memorial should take. It was finally determined that an arch, to span the roadway at the west end of the bridge crossing the burn and right in front of the Ramsay Arms Hotel, would be the most appropriate. A sum of nearly £250 was raised by subscription. Free cartages of stones from Brechin were promised and subsequently performed by the farmers of the district. A Gothic design, furnished by Mr John Milne, architect, St. Andrews, in competition with others by architects in Edinburgh, Arbroath, and Aberdeen, was adopted. Mr Milne, being a native of Fettercairn, entered into the matter with much spirit. He ably and liberally contributed to carry out the views of the subscribers and their committee. His design, with that from Edinburgh, was submitted to Her Majesty, and it received her gracious approval. The foundation-stone was laid with ceremony by Sir John H. S. Forbes, Bart., who all along took a lively interest in the progress of the work. The structure is of Rhenish Gothic, and consists of a semi-circular arch flanked by two massive octagonal towers, each about seven feet diameter, and supported by buttresses, which are about sixty feet high. The top of the towers have high-pitched gablets on the four cardinal sides of the octagon with metal

finials, and are crowned with a low octagonal spirelet having a carved foliage terminal surmounted by a gilded metal finial. The arch itself is semi-circular, rather more than eighteen feet in the span, and upwards of sixteen feet in height to the keystone. The arch stones are deeply moulded on each side, and terminate in long diminishing lines against the sides of the octagon. Above the arch, on one side, there appears the inscription, "Visit of Victoria and Albert, September, 1861," in raised letters of old English character; and on the other side the date of erection (1864). Between the arch and the cornice are spandrels on either side, and above these is a cusped projected course which is continued round the towers. Above the cornice on each side, in the centre, is a royal crown, which is coped between the towers with embrasures terminating against the weathered intake of the octagon, and on the angles of the latter are cut the national emblems in high relief; and in the centre, over the crown, is a semicircle supporting four intersecting gablets with a gilt metallic finial. To be in keeping with the design, the bridge was widened on both sides, and in place of the old stone parapets a handsome iron railing was erected—the whole costing about £60; of which sum a considerable part was borne by Mr Milne, who also, in graceful compliment to his native village and in excellent taste, designed and superintended the whole work without fee or reward. To celebrate the completion of the undertaking, the subscribers met and dined in the hotel, when, in the absence of Sir John H. S. Forbes, convener of committee, Colonel M'Inroy presided. The Royal Arch and the event which it commemorates have attracted many visitors to the village. The workpeople, especially of Montrose and Brechin, on their annual pleasure trips, generally make Fettercairn a halting-place. And the writer has often in the calm stillness of the summer



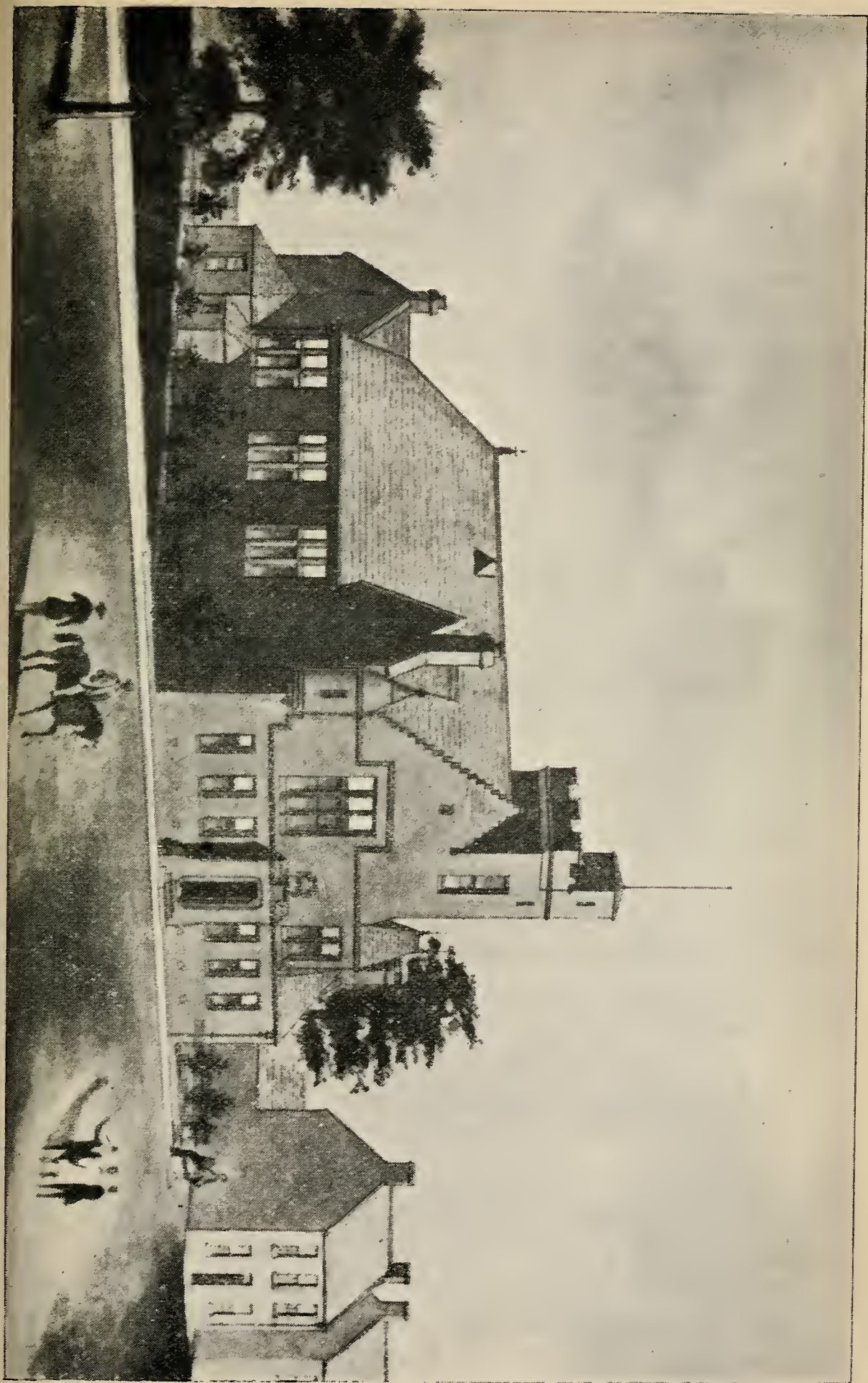
morn stood at his own door and listened with delight to a group of joyous excursionists gazing with admiration at the royal monument and giving vent to their loyal feelings by loud huzzas or joining to sing in chorus *God save the Queen.*

**FORBES MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN.** Shortly after the lamented death of Sir John H. S. Forbes in May, 1866, a public meeting, presided over by the late Sir Thomas Gladstone, was held in the village to consider the propriety of providing a suitable memorial of the deceased baronet, and to be acknowledgment of the esteem and respect in which he was held in the district. A subscription was set on foot, and the sum of £140 was eventually raised for the erection of a fountain in the village, for which a pure and abundant spring of water, half a mile distant on Nethermill farm, was kindly granted by Sir Thomas Gladstone. The watercourse was in due time engineered gratis by Mr Johnstone of Auchcairnie; but that course had, a year or two afterwards, to be abandoned for another adopted by the Local Authority to supply the fountain and distribute the surplus over the village, then formed into a water and drainage district. The site of the fountain was fixed by approval of the late Lady Clinton, who took a deep interest in that token of respect to the memory of her beloved father. The foundation-stone was formally laid by Colonel M'Inroy in presence of the managing committee and others interested. The design of the memorial, which was supplied free of cost by the late David Bryce, R.S.A., Edinburgh, is in the early English Gothic style, richly ornamented; and it was executed in Redhall freestone by the late John Rhind, sculptor, Edinburgh. It rises to a height of twenty feet, the base being about six feet square. On the top of the plinth is the drinking basin, which is of polished Peterhead granite,

with the following inscription:—"Erected to the memory of Sir J. H. S. Forbes, Bart., of Pitsligo and Fettercairn, by his neighbours and other friends, 1869." The upper portion of the fountain consists of an octagonal tower, with gablets ornamented, the centre spire being richly decorated with crockets, and terminated with a Gothic finial. On each of the eight sides is a deeply sunk niche filled in with cusps, and surmounted by a finial.

**PUBLIC HALL.** For a number of years the want of a hall large enough for public meetings, which for lack of better accommodation had to be held in the Public School, was much felt. This led to the getting up of a Bazaar to raise funds for the enlargement of the old hall or the erecting of a new one. A committee of the leading inhabitants was appointed; the ladies of the parish and district set to work, and in August, 1888, the Bazaar was held for two days in the Public School, by which a sum of £550 was realised. With this sum on hand, and the free gift of the old hall from the Honourable Charles F. Trefusis, the committee resolved to erect a new building on the same site. Mr John Milne of St. Andrews, with his wonted generosity, provided plans free of charge; but the committee finding that the probable cost of his design would exceed their resources by at least £300, they hesitated, and obtained plans from other architects, but with no better result. At this juncture the writer, being then secretary, on his own account appealed to Mr Andrew Carnegie of New York, who replied, that "for the sake of the cradle of the Carnegies" (as Fettercairn was termed to him), he would remit one half, £150, if the other half were raised in the locality. This was speedily accomplished. Mr Trefusis undertook to pay for materials to the amount of £50; Sir Thomas Gladstone contributed, in cash and supplies from Caldcotes quarry, about £50; Mr Milne, architect,







gave £20; the Rev. William Anderson, Messrs Don, James J. Murray, and others, in addition to former contributions, subscribed smaller sums; and thus the committee were enabled to proceed with the work, which, during its execution, was zealously superintended by the late Robert Milne, Inchgray, who acted on the spot for his brother as architect and clerk of works. The building, with its internal furnishings complete, cost over £900. English in style, with a leaning to Scottish baronial, it is surmounted by a massive and elegant tower. Over the front door is the date, 1890. Besides the hall proper, sufficient for 400 people, with its spacious platform and convenient ante-room, the adjuncts are a keeper's house, a reading and library room supplied with two or three daily papers and other periodicals. From the library, which contains over 700 volumes of general literature, books are lent weekly at a very moderate charge. There is also a billiard-room, the table being presented by Sir John R. Gladstone, Bart. To show that the Hall has proved a public benefit and has fully realised the expectations of its founders, it may be stated that every year the receipts from concerts and public meetings, the library readers and billiard players (in 1893 about £90), have exceeded the outlays by a considerable amount.

Among other modern buildings of the village that may be noticed are the Parish Manse, built in 1869 upon the site of the old one erected in 1774 and enlarged in 1822; the School-house, built in 1864 on the site of the house and "teaching-room," so called by Mr Foote, and which had done duty since 1747, that is from the time of the burning of the older house beside the churchyard. Mr Don's house, shop, and bank office were built in 1857, from designs by Mr Milne; Mr Macdonald's house and shop in the same year; also about the same time the house and shop now occupied by Mr Neil were enlarged for the late

Mr James Dakers. As to houses and population, the village stands, one half on the estate of Fettercairn and the other half on that of Balmain ; but in the olden time, and till the end of last century, it was almost wholly on the former. It mostly consisted of clay built and thatched huts, which, about a hundred and fifty years ago, were replaced by the strongly built two-story houses facing the market square, those of the "Townhead" and the old one recently repaired, which by the people of a former generation was yclept "the provost's mansion at the east brig-end." The Burnside houses and villas are feus off the lands of Balmain, the older ones dating from the second and the villas from the fourth decade of the century. Durie's cottages were built about 1860 by the late David Durie, distiller, for his workmen, and are vulgarly designated "The Whisky Raw." The latest change has been the extension of the Ramsay Arms Hotel by the Edzell Hotel Company, and it now affords more than ample accommodation.

## Part Fifth.

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# CHURCH AND SCHOOL.

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## CHAPTER XXIII.

### CHURCHES AND CHURCHYARDS.

ON the extreme end of the sandy ridge or moraine, extending northwards to the Townhead and Nethermill, are situated the Parish Church and Churchyard. When this elevated spot was first made a God's acre none can tell. But like many other places of worship and sepulture throughout the country, it was chosen because of its dry and elevated position, and it was probably at first the site of a Druidical temple. When in the fifth century St. Palladius introduced Christianity into the Mearns and planted a church at Fordoun, other places would come under the influence of his mission, and Fettercairn too would have its church. But for the thousand years that follow, nothing is known till, in 1450, it is stated that the Kirklands of Fettercairn were held by a member of the Ogston family who owned lands in the parish. It is very probable that the kirk fabric which then did duty was that which underwent extensive repairs and improvements in 1788, and which in 1803 was pulled down to give place to the present edifice.



In Mr Foote's Account of the Parish he says, "The church is a very fine old house, too narrow for its length, as most of these old kirks are." It may therefore be supposed to have been one of the pre-Reformation kirks which, in rural parishes, were long, narrow buildings. On its north side was a small recess called the Balbegno aisle, and underneath the same was the Wood burial vault, still entire, only that its stair access is now by an opening with a cover recently formed outside the front wall of the church. The old church stood farther south; and, whether by accident or design, Mr Foote's monument covers the spot formerly occupied by his pulpit. The Wood vault is  $17\frac{1}{2}$  ft. long,  $14\frac{1}{2}$  ft. broad, and 7 ft. high to the crown of the arch. The two side walls and the inner end wall are of plain rubble, and the arched roof of freestone. In the roof, at regular distances, are inserted five iron hooks for suspending the lamps required at burials, and, in accordance with the old custom, to have lights burning for a stated time over the dead in their last resting-place. The coffins were laid upon the earth floor of the vault. In 1886, when it was opened up near the pulpit, in order to lay a foundation for the new organ, six oak coffins, three to three lengthwise, in a crumbling condition, lay across at the far end. They were no doubt those of the Ogilvy family of Balbegno, whose mortcloth entries appear, from time to time during the last century, in the Kirk Session Records. All older remains of the Middletons and, older still, of the Woods had disappeared, and had likely returned to dust, or were covered over at the building of the new church in 1803, the new foundation of which interfered with graves and with the "Bell hillock" and its graves at the west end of the old church. It had to be levelled; its human remains and the coffins removable were taken and unceremoniously thrown into the vault. This accounted for the great mass of earth, bones

and debris afterwards found covering the stair and closing up the entrance. Stranger tramps who died in the parish were interred in the "Bell hillock." One day, at the work of levelling, James Lyall, the beadle, had a large coffin on his barrow, destined for the vault. He was hailed by the workmen, and asked whose coffin he had now. "King James's," he replied, "and the auld beggar has a gey weight." Of the many strolling characters of those days, the coffin contained the mortal remains of one who had been well known, and who, probably brain-affected, had assumed the title of King James, at a time when the adventures of James the old Pretender were often narrated. Or it may be that "King James" was a nickname, for nicknames were then but too common. To enlarge the area of the church, a north transept was added, in 1838, by the three principal and resident heritors of Fettercairn, Fasque, and The Burn estates. At the same time the tower and clock with pinnacles and spire, 100 feet in height, were erected by the late Sir John Gladstone, from a design by Henderson, Edinburgh. A few years afterwards two of the four pinnacles were blown down by a wind storm, but were re-erected by the heritors in 1859. Each pinnacle weighed about a ton; and again one of these fell during a gale in February, 1864, and crashed through the roof and ceiling into the body of the church. Another fell on the night of the Tay Bridge storm, in December, 1879, and likewise damaged the roof. Rain, frost, and wind split and displaced a portion of the third; and in order to save from more accidents, it and the one remaining were condemned and hewn down, thus leaving the spire shorn of much of its original beauty of outline. In old times the church bell was suspended from a tree or the stem of a tree upon the "Bell-hillock." The old bell having become useless, a new one was got which bears upon its waist: "J. DICKSON & Co., MONTROSE, 1821." A writer, on the

*Church Bells of Kincardineshire*, describes it as being in shape like an inverted basin and not quite circular; with a row of large, clear acanthus leaves above the sound-bow; but unless he be a prejudiced scribbler, it is rather humbling to accept his statement that "Marykirk Free Church disputes with Fettercairn the unenviable distinction of being the possessor of the worst bell in the county!" In 1859, when the ground floor and old-fashioned pews were renewed, the earth underneath was found to be largely mixed with decayed pieces of bone; which showed that the old practice of burying within churches had there also been observed.

In the churchyard are three burial enclosures belonging respectfully to the proprietors of Fasque, Balmain, and Arnhall. The first of these was constructed by Sir John Gladstone, and contained a vault now disused and demolished since 1847, when Fasque Chapel and vault were erected. In the Balmain enclosure many members of the Ramsay family were buried, but no stone was raised nor line carved to preserve their memory. In the Arnhall enclosure the only interment, so far as known, was that, as before stated, of John Shand, in 1825. However dear to many a heart are many of the names recorded on the various tombstones, it is only the ancient memorials of men and women long departed, and whom "the place knows no more," that can here be given. The most of them were copied by the writer, in 1870, for Jervise's *Epitaphs from Burial Grounds in the North-East of Scotland*. Form and fashion in tombstones, as in other things, have changed from time to time. Those of the seventeenth century were flat slabs, few in number; of the eighteenth, table-shaped erections and small sized headstones with elaborately carved death emblems; and of the nineteenth, plainer but larger headstones, obelisks and crosses. Granite headstones are now the order; and the large number of these in the churchyard have all been placed within the last



forty years. A carefully drawn plan of the graveyard and its layers, for the guidance of the sexton, was made by the late Sir John S. Forbes; and a few years ago, at the proposal and under the superintendence of the Rev. William Anderson, the surface was levelled, and the old flat stones and the displaced table ones were taken for preservation and set up against the end walls of the church and the inside of the Arnhall enclosure. The oldest existing one is a slab that lay flat in front of the church, having round its margin the following inscription:—

“HEIR . LAYS . . . . ITHFUL . BROTHER . ALEXANDER . . . . ROS .  
MERCHANT . AND . BURGESS . OF . DUNDIE . QUHA . DEPAIRT . . . . E .  
LYF . 2 . MAI . ANNO . 1615 . OF . HIS . AGE . 88.”

In 1731 a David Austine in Bogmill was summoned before the Kirk Session for removing this stone and defiantly claiming a right to the ground.

The next is an ornamental slab with representations of a wright's mallet, chisel, compass and square, &c., with the initials J. R., C. M., D. R. It bears this inscription, in capitals, round the margin:—

“Hic jacet pius et honestus Jacobus Rochus qui commutavit lucem, in Anno Domini 1642. His ag. 43. y.” Or (Here lies a pious and honest man, James Roch, who died in 1642, aged 43 years.)

Upon another flat stone:—

“Here resteth in the Lord, WILLIAM CHRISTY, who departed this lyf, ninth . . . . 1677 . . . . his spouse MARGARET DAVIDSON, who departed this lyf . . . . and 79 her age.”

Upon a flat stone in the south-west side:—

“Here rests in the Lord, JOHN WALLENTINE, late Mosgrive in Arnhall, who departed this lyfe, 23rd Febryr, 1679, and his age 65 years. And his spous AGNES LOWE, who departed this lyf the 12th June, 1682, and hire age 68 years:—

“My parents here in hope doth rest,  
Again to rise, and be for ever blest;  
. . . . live in hope here to lye,  
And rise and reing with them eternaly.”

One of the many carvings upon this stone is a human hand, upon a shield, holding a coil of rope, and on the left a short pole or stake. These objects referred to the occupation of the "mossgrive"—the rope for measuring the moss, and the pole for marking the boundaries. At the same period the peat-mosses of Arnhall are noticed among the possessions of the laird, Charles, fourth Earl of Southesk.

In front of the Ramsay enclosure stands a line of headstones marking the graves of a generation or two of Austines, a name now extinct in the parish. The oldest is a flat stone, now removed, with this inscription :

"Hear rests in the Lord WILLIAM AVSTIN, hysband of Isobel, Gentleman, who depe . . . the 30 of Ivne anno 1685, and of age 68."

"My glas is rvn, and thine rynneth ;

Remember death, for jvdgment cometh."

A table-shaped tombstone west of the latter recorded the death of John Kinloch in 1690, aged 60 ; of his first wife, Jean Kinloch ; and of his second, Elizabeth Blacklaws, who died in the same year, aged 66. The Kinlochs were tenants of Meiklestrath down to 1803. Upon a brass plate sunk into the same stone is the name of James Kinloch of Wester Balmanno, who had been for seventeen years in Jamaica. He died in 1831, aged 78. An adjoining headstone stands to the memory of George Kinloch, Deputy Judge Advocate and Master in Chancery in Jamaica, who died at Stonehaven in 1802, aged 60, and of his spouse, Susannah Wigglesworth, who died at Edinburgh in 1841, aged 81. One of their children, George Ritchie Kinloch, principal keeper in Edinburgh of the General Register of Deeds and Probative Writs, published a volume of Ancient Scottish Ballads in 1827. Upon the grave marked by the headstone of James Nicholson, parish schoolmaster (1817-1843), lay a stone inscribed as follows :—

“Under this stone are repositied the bodys of DAVID MORES, aged 80, departed this life May 5, 1696, with his wife ISOBEL MITCHELL, who died March 7, 1694, aged 74; as also their daughter ELIZABETH MORES.

“Under this stone the man and wife do ly,  
 What was one flesh, we but one dust now spy :  
 Their daughter also lodgeth in this grave ;  
 So far three bodys, we one ashes have.  
 The great Eternal Threë and One with ease,  
 Will from one dust all the three bodys raise,  
 Which winged to the celestial joys above  
 Shall never cease to sing their praise and love.”

These verses were probably written by an Alexander Mores or Morrice, a student of Marischal College, supposed to be a son of the above David Mores, and who was appointed schoolmaster of Fettercairn in 1674.

On the south-west side, a small sized headstone, elaborately carved, bears the following :—

“Here lys MARGARET DICKIE, sometime spouse to JAMES LAW in Chapelton of Arnhall, who dyed, May the 28, 1737, aged 76 years; and those her children, Robert, Janet, Isobel Laws, who dyed in their nonage.”

Upon the reverse of this stone is a representation of our first parents, and the figure of a serpent at the forbidden tree, with the couplet :—

“Adam and Eve by eating the forbidden tree  
 Brought all mankind to sin and misery.”

On the next stone the inscription relates to a daughter of James Law and Margaret Dickie, who, with her husband, as aforestated, kept the brewhouse of Sandyford :—

“Erected, 1792, by James Gibb in Mill of Arnhall and Robert Gibb in Drumhendry, in memory of their parents JOHN GIBB and HELLEN LAW in Chapelton of Arnhall. John Gibb, died, 19 March, 1755, aged 55. Hellen Law, died, 17 June, 1769, aged 62. And GEORGE, son of James Gibb, died, June, 1789, at the age of 14.”

Upon a table stone, in local parlance—Kirky Croll’s—is the following :—



“Under this stone is interred the corpse of ALEXANDER CROLL, who sometime lived in Kirkhill of Fettercairn, and departed this life, Dec. 25th day, 1747, aged 45 years. As also the corpse of MARGARET SMITH, his spouse, who died, the 21st of April, 1756, aged 50 years.

“The tyrant, Death, spares neither age nor sex,  
The gayist mark it haughtily affects ;  
Parents from children, Husbands from their wives  
He often tears, when most they wish their lives ;  
Learn then to fix on nothing here below,  
But on thy God, he'll Heaven on thee bestow.”

John Smith, V.S., Fettercairn, is fourth in descent from a brother of Margaret Smith.

A flat stone now set against the church wall has a Latin inscription, supposed to be written by a member of the family, James Peat, a licentiate of the church, who for a year or two acted as substitute teacher of the school and Session-clerk in the parish. Mr William Peat, farmer, Pittarrow, is a descendant of this family. The following is a free translation of the inscription :—

“Here lie the remains of ELIZA PEAT, who died, 2nd August, 1779, in her 19th year ; and of ALEXANDER PEAT, who died, 25th January, 1781, in his 81st year. This monument was erected in memory of JAMES PEAT, who died in 1750, in his 20th year, grandson of Alexander Peat, late in Bogmill, who also rests in this tomb. Death draweth near to all.”

Another flat stone, with a Latin inscription, and dated 1753, lay at the east end of the church. The inscription may thus be rendered :—

“In this tomb are laid the remains of ALEXANDER SCOTT, A.M., a most distinguished and learned professor of the more liberal and other Arts and Sciences, especially Mathematics. He was born at Nethermill of Balmain, 14th December, 1708, and died at Bankhead of Birse, 18th February, 1751, in the 43rd year of his age.”

He was a son of Alexander Scott, tenant of Nethermill, and an elder in the parish. He appears to have been the

first teacher appointed to the school at Finzean, founded and endowed about 1727 by Dr. Gilbert Ramsay, Rector of Christ Church, Barbadoes, who also left £500 for the poor of Birse, his native parish; money for the building of a bridge over the Feugh at Whitestones; and mortified £4800 under the patronage of Sir Alexander Ramsay of Balmain and his heirs for Bursaries and a Chair of Oriental Languages at Marischal College, Aberdeen. It may here be stated that the above interesting memorial has disappeared. Some time, about twenty years ago, the ground was used for burial by certain parties claiming kinship with the Scotts; and they, when setting up a headstone of their own, carried off the old stone, which, although afterwards diligently enquired for, has never been discovered.

Within a railing, in front of the church, stands an obelisk, which bears upon its west side:—

“Erected by the Parish of Fettercairn in memory of the Rev. ROBERT FOOTE, their late pastor, as a mark of their esteem for an honest man and an able and zealous minister of the Gospel. He died on July 1, 1809, in the 67th year of his age, and the 41st of his ministry.”

Upon the north side panel is inscribed:—

“Here is interred JANE SMITH, widow of the Rev. Robert Foote, who died in 1842, aged 83 years.”

Upon the east panel are recorded the deaths of four of their family, and also upon the west one, that of a son, Archibald, merchant in Montrose, who died in 1867, aged 71. He amassed a large fortune, of which, it is said, £1000 was to be paid by his executors to the Free Church of his native parish. A correspondence with the managers took place, which resulted in keeping back the money.

A headstone, on the right of the walk up to the church, bears the following:—







“In memory of JAMES SMITH, Flaxdresser, who died in 1816, aged 86. While in life he acted as Father to the Poor, and with the consent of his spouse, devoted nearly all his property for their benefits, by appointing it to become at the survivor's death a permanent fund for their aid. Erected by his widow, Isobel Taylor, who died at Montrose, 18 May, 1824, aged 71.”

A headstone, near the north-east corner of the kirkyard, erected by the late Sir Thomas Gladstone, bears :—

“Sacred to the memory of SANDY JUNOR, a kind-hearted, simple-minded, upright man, and a faithful friend. Poor himself, his heart and hand were ever open to the wants of others. Born at Fortrose, he died near Fettercairn, 27 November, 1863, aged 60; deeply regretted by all classes.”

*Sandy Junor's Well*, on the Cairn o' Mount, so welcome to travellers, was his handiwork. His object in constructing the fountain is thus told upon a polished granite panel fixed in the structure :—“This fountain was erected in memory of Captain J. N. Gladstone, R.N., who died in 1863, by his grateful friend, Sandy Junor.” The labour of collecting and rolling down, even with occasional help, the large quartz boulders off the hillside to form the sides of the fountain, overtaxed his strength and brought on the illness of which he died. At Fasque he was allowed to indulge his hobby of rearing trees from seed and working in the nursery. To be mementos of the marriage of the Prince of Wales, in March, 1863, he planted, at a few special places on the estate of Fasque, “a Prince and a Princess.” As many of these as have grown must now be of large size; but where they are may not now be well known.

Within a railing, at the north-west corner of the church, stands a massive granite headstone, erected by the Rev. Adam Inch Ritchie, minister of the parish (1858–67), in memory of his wife, Marion Elizabeth Young, who died, 11th January, 1858.

Within the church are two mural tablets, one to the right and the other to the left of the pulpit. That on the left was erected by Sir Alexander E. Ramsay, Bart. :—

“In memory of Sir ALEXANDER RAMSAY, Bart. of Balmain, died, March 3rd, 1875, aged 61, and was interred in the cemetery, Cheltenham. Also of his mother, JANE, LADY RAMSAY, daughter of Francis Russell, Esq. of Blackhall, died August 24th, 1819, aged 30.”

The tablet on the right is of marble, and bears :—

“In memory of the Reverend ALEXANDER WHYTE, A.M., ordained to the ministry of this parish on 18th March, 1817, died on 11th January, 1858, aged 68. Erected by Parishioners.”

His grave is marked by a headstone, with a Latin inscription, near the front wall of the church. It was erected by himself in memory of a brother David Whyte, surgeon, Montrose, who died in 1839, aged 39; and of a sister Ann Whyte, who died in 1842, aged 25.

A considerable number of monuments, though worthy of notice, are passed over, as casual references at least to some of them will be made in a future chapter.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

CHURCHES AND CHURCHYARDS (*continued*).

THE FREE CHURCH, a plain but commodious building, was erected after the Disruption in 1843. Its site and grounds are a feu off the estate of Balmain. The managers, it is said, applied to Sir Alexander Ramsay for a feu of ground then vacant on the east side of the burn; but he refused, saying:—"No! no! The two ministers would be too near each other; let us keep cold water between the fellows!" Short notices of the incumbents in charge will be given in the chapter on ministers.

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH at Fasque stands a little eastward of the mansion-house. Built by Sir John Gladstone, it was consecrated and opened, 28th August, 1847, by Samuel, Bishop of Oxford and subsequently of Winchester. A new chancel, in the early English style of architecture, was added by Sir Thomas Gladstone, and consecrated 15th April, 1869, by Alexander, Bishop of Brechin. The east window, which contains representations of St. Andrew and the Four Evangelists, is a fine specimen of art. The additions were made by Sir Thomas in memory of his deceased brother, Captain John-Nelson Gladstone, as shown by a brass plate upon the north wall, with the following Latin inscription, in old English characters:—



“In gloriam honoremque Dei, et in memoriam dilectissimam JOHANNIS NEILSON GLADSTONE, in Classe Regali Navarchi, qui obiit A.D. 1863; hunc cancellum ecclesiae St. Andreae adstrui curavit frater moerens, T. G., A.D. 1867.”

(To the glory and honour of God, and in the deeply cherished memory of John-Neilson Gladstone, Captain in the Royal Navy, who died A.D. 1863; his sorrowing brother T. G. caused this chancel of St. Andrew's Church to be erected.)

A monument of white marble, in the north wall of the nave of the church, presents a group of two figures, in high relief, nearly life size, and in the attitude of prayer. They represent the founder of the church and his lady. Along the base of the monument is this inscription:—

“Sacred to the memory of Sir JOHN GLADSTONE of Fasque and Balfour, Baronet; born 11 Dec. 1764, died 7 Dec. 1851. And of his wife, ANN ROBERTSON, born 4 Aug., 1772; died 23 Sept. 1835.”

Two memorial windows (also on the north side of the church, inscribed as below) refer respectively to a sister and two children of Sir Thomas and Lady Gladstone, the latter containing a representation of Christ blessing little children:—

“In memory of ANN M'KENZIE GLADSTONE, born 1802, died 1829. ‘Lord, I believe, thou hast the words of eternal life.’ In memory of EVELYN-MARCELLA GLADSTONE, born 1847, died 1852. FRANCES-MARGARET GLADSTONE, born 1850, died 1853.”

A window, over the entrance to the church, is commemorative of Robert Gladstone, a brother of Sir John, who died at Fasque in 1835. A flat stone in the area of the church, over the family vault, bears this record of a daughter of the Hon. W. E. Gladstone:—

“In the vault beneath sleep the mortal remains of CATHERINE JESSY GLADSTONE, second daughter of W. E. & Catherine Gladstone. Born July 27th, 1845; died April 9th, 1850. And in their mouth was found no guile; for they are without fault before the throne of God. Rev. 14c. 5v.”

The vault contains the mortal remains of all whose memorials have been described; and also those of Miss Helen Gladstone, aunt of Sir John R. Gladstone, who died at Cologne, January 16th, 1880; of Sir Thomas Gladstone, who died March 20th, 1889; and of Miss Ida Gladstone, for whom a mural brass in the church reads thus:—

“In memory of IDA GLADSTONE, born 22nd January, 1849; died 22nd June, 1874. ‘Weep not, she is not dead but sleepeth.’”

The two memorial windows—one on each side of the altar—representing choirs of angels, commemorate the deaths, formerly noticed, of Louisa and Anne Gladstone, who died in London on the 12th and 24th January, 1885.

A memorial window on the south side of the church is embellished with two subjects; the upper one is St. John the Evangelist leading the Blessed Virgin home from the Crucifixion. The lower represents St. John leaning upon his Master’s breast; and along the base is the following: “✠ In memory of Sir JOHN HEPBURN STUART FORBES, Bart. Born Sept. 25th, 1804; died May 28th, 1866.”

Upon a mural brass, also on the south side, is the following: “In loving remembrance of Lieut.-Col. WILLIAM M’INROY of The Burn; born 28th August, 1804; died 29th April, 1896: and of HARRIET-BARBARA, his wife; born 15th April, 1810; died 2nd July, 1890.”

NEWDOSK CHURCHYARD. In previous chapters some account was given of the lands and parish of Newdosk. The parish was included in the diocese of St. Andrews, and paid four merks Scots annually to the Cathedral. The church, whose foundations are traceable in the churchyard, was in all likelihood dedicated to St. Drostan; as a well (recently drained into the Balfour burn), in a field called the “Piper’s shade,” on the farm of Balfour, bore the name of St. Drostan. According to tradition, it cured all

diseases ; and some envious members of the healing craft, in trying to poison the well, were slain by the people and buried around it in the field. To the east of the churchyard, on the farm of Kirkton, there was a sheet of water called the "Cardinal's pool." To the west lies the "Manse field," and a part of it, about an acre in extent, is known as "the glebe." Farther west, on Bonhary farm, stood the "Auld ha'," while one of the fields is called the "Doo-cot park." The churchyard is still used for interments. Two of the older graves are marked by the halves of the broken baptismal font of the church. A few years ago the late Alexander Adam of Newtonmill, after retiring from his business as a builder in London, built a new wall round the churchyard to protect the graves of his kindred. His own headstone is one of the newer ones. Colonel and Mrs M'Inroy preferred this spot for burial rather than the Arnhall enclosure in Fettercairn churchyard. Their headstone, of massive granite, bears the following simple but appropriate inscription:—"HARRIET BARBARA, wife of William M'Inroy of The Burn; died there 2 July, 1890. WILLIAM M'INROY of The Burn; died there 29 April, 1896, aged 91." Another granite headstone marks the grave of John Nicol, farmer, Inch of Arnhall, a native of Deeside, who, after attending for two sessions the Arts classes at Marischal College (when the writer was a class-fellow), emigrated to Australia, was successful, and returned in 1868. In that year he became tenant of Inch, but resided at Woodmyre, and died there, much lamented, in 1893. The revival of interments in the quiet and hallowed ground of Newdosk will probably induce many people in the district to make it their last resting-place.

CHAPELTON OF ARNHALL. The name Chapelton indicates that, besides a chapel, there was here a group of dwellings forming a town, in the old sense of the term. All that



now remains is a farm cottage, with a heap of stones, evidently the remains in part of buildings long ago demolished. Very little is known of the chapel except that it was dedicated to St. Martin. The adjoining pool on the river is still called "Linn Martin." Two carved stones now built into the front wall of the cottage, dated respectively 1668 and 1704, bear the arms (the eagle being erroneously carved with two heads) and the initials of James the second Earl and of James the fifth Earl of Southesk. An entry of date 1736 in the Kirk Session minutes of Fettercairn alludes to a "Mr Skinner, Episcopal minister at Arnhall"; but whether he was minister of the chapel, or whether it stood till that date, does not appear. Another entry, of the same year, in the minutes refers to the graveyard, now a part of the ploughed field in front of the cottage. Its boundary is still traceable, from its soil being blacker and richer than the rest of the field, and from its crop being heavier and more luxuriant, especially in a dry summer. The same entry, in 1736, bears that at sight of the Kirk Session, some decaying ash trees on the boundary were sold by public roup, and realised £29 11s. Scots. Without the trees, and with no other fence, burials being discontinued, the graveyard, like others of its kind, was neglected, and now it is as much out of remembrance as the "unknowing and unknown" that lie beneath.

## CHAPTER XXV.

## BEADLES AND KIRK OFFICERS.

**F**OLLOWING the subject of Churches and Churchyards, some account may be given of the successive holders of the office which combines the duties of beadle, bellman and gravedigger.

In former times the beadle had many duties to perform, including some that are not now required. Besides fulfilling the duties of the beadle of the present day, he had to attend the minister at parochial visitations, and summon culprits of all kinds to undergo church discipline. He had also to cry or advertise sales and give other notices at the church door after divine service; to walk in front of funeral processions and ring a hand-bell; to keep dogs out of church, and if they happened to get in, to put them out as best he could. This he usually managed with a clip like a smith's tongs, which he kept to catch them. His multifarious duties led him to be regarded as the best newsmonger in the parish.

The first beadle in Fettercairn of whom there is any record was an Andrew Low, who, according to a minute of Presbytery at Fordoun in June, 1702, was chosen to be their officer for the ensuing six months, with 7s. (Scots) from each member. The next was James Stephen, who appears, in 1723, among others that borrowed Kirk Session funds. Besides his fees as sexton, he got 2s. 6d.

every year for shoes to do the digging. Most ordinary people then went barefooted. His money emoluments were 2d. from each church collection, and half of each groat charged for his ringing of the hand-bell at funerals. The bell then in use was the gift of a Robert Valentine, Denstrath. At that time it was also part of the beadle's duty to go once a year to Fordoun for a loan of the table-cloths and cups for the communion, as the Kirk Session had no cloths of their own till 1727, and no cups till 1788. The communion tables were not fixtures, but were erected as occasion required. The same James Stephen was one of the kirk officers in the county who compeared "At Stonehyve the 30th day of May, 1748 years, before Sir William Ogilvie of Barras, Justice of the Peace," to depone that they did affix to the church doors a summons by the commander of His Majesty's forces in Scotland, ordering "The hail persons in their respective parishes to deliver up their arms and warlike weapons to him at Laurencekirk, upon the 27th day of said month of May, 1748."

Stephen's successor was a James Lyall, who became kirk officer in 1763, and died in 1771, leaving a widow and a young family. The Kirk Session compassionately appointed his eldest boy James, although only twelve years of age, to the office, with the help of a man for a year or two to dig the graves. The boy grew up to be a "character" and to be "Old Jamie Lyall," as the people of a past generation called him, when succeeded in 1820 by his son, also James Lyall. About "Old James" many stories were told. One Sunday, as the congregation were dismissing, he, in compliance with the usual custom, mounted a tombstone near the church door, rung his bell, and cried, "Tak' tent, sirs, tak' tent, Stolen or strayed, a ewe, from Balnakettle, whae'er brings her hame will be rewarded, but I forgot, wi' a tether!" On another Sunday, being sorely tried with the dogs that followed



their masters to church, and especially with one worse than the rest, he dragged this one out, and to be a spectacle to the people leaving church, he left him hanging dead on the churchyard gate !

James Lyall (the third) succeeded his father and performed the duties, but like many of his class, rendered callous by familiarity, he sometimes showed scant decorum on sad and sorrowful occasions. On one occasion Jamie became very thirsty, before his work in the kirkyard preparatory to a funeral was completed, and lingering too long in the congenial company of the taproom, the mourners and company arrived. It was the funeral of a woman who was not well spoken of in the parish, and one whom Jamie much disliked. After being sent for, Jamie turned up, and his condition excited severe comments on the part of those in charge. Jamie's ire was at once roused. Throwing off his coat leisurely, he retorted with much vehemence : "Set her doon there till I'm ready. She's no a clockin' hen ; she'll no flee awa'." He demitted office in 1838, but survived for a good many years, residing in the low roofed cot on the roadside behind the Ramsay Arms Hotel. The young rogues of the village made him their butt, when police surveillance was not very effective. One of their tricks was to climb up on his chimney-top and, with a long hook, to pull up off the fire and out of sight his supper pot or kettle, while two or three others of the band went inside to watch the result, and hold out with feigned sympathy that the witches had run off with his supper. In his later years he was often employed to ring the old hand-bell and advertise sales, raffles, and other events in the village.

After his death, the bell, which should have been preserved as a sacred relic of olden times, unfortunately disappeared. The next beadle was George Watson, a discreet and gentle man, who was by trade a shoemaker,

and had been an officer's servant in the Peninsular campaign, and at the battle of Corunna in 1807. James Barron from Auchinblae, also a shoemaker, was appointed in 1863, and after thirty years' faithful service was succeeded by John Colman, boot and shoemaker, who now holds office.

The occupation of beadle has always been associated with shrewdness and sharpness of wit, and many of the best Scotch stories now in print originated with men of this class. Of the Fettercairn beadles, James Barron best kept up the reputation of his profession in this respect, and this chapter may be appropriately concluded with an example of his repartee. The substance of the story is as follows: The parish doctor had got a more lucrative appointment, and he had to leave the place on short notice. He employed Barron to assist at the removal of his furniture, without making any definite agreement as to payment. After settling down in his new home the doctor sent uncollected accounts back to Fettercairn by post, and, amongst others, one to the beadle, which the latter considered an overcharge; but to keep himself right, Barron made out a contra account which showed a small balance in his own favour, and, sending it to the doctor, requested him to kindly remit the balance. This elicited a very sarcastic reply from the medical man, expressing the hope that the beadle might have constant employment at packing furniture, for he might soon be able to retire if always paid at that figure—to which Barron briefly replied, "I should have no objection to constant employment of *any kind*, for there has been nothing doing in the kirkyard since you left."

## CHAPTER XXVI.

## MINISTERS BEFORE AND AFTER THE REFORMATION.

THE first minister of the parish, so far as can be traced, was “Maister David Setone, persone de Fethyrcarne,” whose name thus appears in minutes of the Council Register of the Burgh of Aberdeen, in 1491, as a member of committee anent land causes, and again, in 1498, as clerk *pro tempore* to the commissioners of burghs engaged in a matter affecting their foreign trade. He was also designated “Rector of Fethyrcarne,” and held office at least till 1514. Along with him, or for a time in his absence, Alexander Rait was “Vicar de Fethircarne” in 1508 and 1509. The next in charge was “Master James Strachauchin,” a cadet of the House of Thornton, who appears as “persone” from 1523, or from the demission of David Setone, till 1556 or a later date. An original letter, in the Register of Panmure, shows that he was minister in 1523, and a deed recorded therein that he was so in 1556, when appointed a tutor, as the nearest of kin on the “moder syde” to “Johne Thornetoune of y<sup>t</sup> ilk.” Another tutor was “Johne Strauchauchin of Claypottis,” probably a brother, according to the said letter copied as follows by the late Andrew Jervise:—“Hono<sup>bl</sup> Ss<sup>r</sup> and Cune (cousin)—ples zou well, I ame adveset y<sup>t</sup> ze ar to be fra zor place ye maist pt of yis somer quharfor praie zou y<sup>t</sup> ye will caus deliver to my bruder ye berar my blak govne ye vestiment w<sup>t</sup> ye ptnitis (patens) and ye siluer chalice for I feir y<sup>t</sup> ye



thrie pt of ye fruits of ye befcis sal be taken yis zeir as it wes ye last zeir under God's kepe y<sup>s</sup>. At Claipotts, ye xxj day of May, '23, zour cuyne (cousin).

“M. JA. STRACHAUCHIN,  
“psone of fethercarne.”

“To ane hon<sup>bl</sup> man this cam  
Thomas Strachauchin of Carmily.”

Regarding the Church of Newdosk, it is recorded that early in the thirteenth century “Bricius was persona de Neudonasse”; and that in the beginning of the sixteenth “David Ogilvy was rector de Newdosk.” In the end of that century Newdosk was under the care of John Collace, who, as minister of Fettercairn, will be hereafter noticed. It is interesting to note that very generally the parish clergy, down to the eighteenth century, were cadets of the landed and opulent families of the country, such as the Lindsays of Edzell, the Ramsays of Balmain, the Strachans of Thornton, and the Wisharts of Pitarrow.

In connection with church matters, it may be proper at this stage to introduce a traditional story of witch-burning at Fettercairn; which, happily, is the only one of the kind in the annals of the parish. No date can be given as the record, said to belong to Aberluthnot (Marykirk), does not exist. It was to the effect that on the church door were affixed the words: “Nae sermon here this day—the minister bein’ awa’ at Fettercairn burnin’ a witch.”

A Montrose poet has given the following version:—

“At Marykirk, in days of yore,  
Ae Sabbath morn the auld kirk door  
A curious inscription bore,  
Addressed to puir and rich;  
In whilk the minister made mane,  
That there that day he could preach nane,  
As he to Fettercairn had gane  
To burn a wicked witch.

“ A hag who had for mony a year  
The kintra side kept in a steer,  
Till her ill deeds, dune far and near,  
Gar’t countless fingers itch,  
To get her tethered to a post,  
’Mang lowin’ whins an’ peats to roast,  
Till she sud yield her sinfu’ ghost,  
As it becam’ a witch.”

After the Reformation, or about 1567, Patrick Bouncele was appointed minister of Fordoun, with charge of Fettercairn and Newdosk, as well as in 1574 of Conveth (Laurencekirk). His salary was £13 6s. 8d. sterling. In a minute of the General Assembly of 1571, he is referred to as one of the “Auld Chaptoure” of St. Andrews, and one of the “Ministeris professouris of the treu religioun.” He attended the Assembly of 1582, and reported that “a Presbyterie of Ministers, but not as yet of any gentlemen or elders, had been erected in the Mearns.” In 1599 Adam Walker became his colleague and successor at Fordoun, who, in 1601, was engaged “in designing ane manse, and was sett upon by Sir David Wood of Craig, Knycht, and with twelve utheris, he strak him with the gaird of his sword upon the heid, dang him to the eird, and with their drawin swords they woundit him in baith his hands to the effusion of his blude in great quantitie.” Patrick Bouncele died in 1607.

The Rev. Dr. Hew Scott, in his voluminous work, states that at this time Fettercairn was a mensal church of the Archbishop of St. Andrews, and that the parish was supplied by John Thom, reader in 1574, and Newdosk by David Straton, reader from 1574 to 1580. The latter appears as minister of Logie Coldstone in 1585. It may consequently be inferred that Patrick Bouncele, upon taking the charge of Conveth in 1574, either appointed these readers as his assistants or wholly demitted his charge of Fettercairn and Newdosk.

James Lindsay, “a mild, learned, and accomplished divine,” the fourth son of David, ninth Earl of Crawford, was appointed to Fettercairn in 1576. He visited France to seek relief from the stone, with which he was painfully afflicted. In a letter to his brother John of Balcarres in Fife, dated Paris, 1579, he writes : “I have taken my voyage from this town to Geneva, being pressit thereto baith be sundry writings from the ministry in Scotland. Also be ane infirmity of Scotsmen here, wha ye knaw are mony ways fashious. By (besides) this, some sight of the country with far greater commodity in my expenses and the winter season being at hand, did haste me. I knaw ye will do in my matters, as ane loving brother, wherever I be.” He died at Geneva, 15th June, 1580 ; and a Latin elegy to his memory was written by the celebrated Andrew Melville, and published in *Deliciæ Poetarum Scotorum*.

The next was John Collace, son of “an honorabil man,” John Collace of Balnamoon. Newdosk, as already stated, was also under his care, till his death in 1587, and he was evidently the last minister of that parish, before its partition between Fettercairn and Edzell. “He was awand to the Reader of Fettercairn for his stipend, for singing at Kirk thereof, in anno 1587–8.” He was succeeded, in 1588, by Alexander Forbes, A.M. (born in 1564), son of John Forbes of Ardmurdo (Keithhall), a descendant of Forbes of Brux (Strathdon). He graduated at St. Andrews in 1585 ; was appointed to the Bishopric of Caithness in 1604, but held the charge of Fettercairn in conjunction with it, and continued to hold it afterwards along with the Bishopric of Aberdeen, to which he was promoted in 1616. He married Christina, daughter of — Straton of Criggie (St. Cyrus), and had seven sons and three daughters. Margaret, one of these, was married to Andrew Straton of Warburton, ancestor of the Stratons of Fodra, Drumhendry and Balmakelly, as stated in a former chapter. Bishop



Forbes was a member of Assembly almost every year from 1593 to 1610; for some years constant Moderator of Presbytery; in 1609, a member of the Conference at Falkland; in 1610 and 1615, of the Court of High Commission. He seems to have favoured the remission of George Marquis of Huntly from the sentence of excommunication, which not improbably paved the way to his promotion. He was nicknamed "Collie," for his being a pluralist. He died at Warburton on 24th November, 1617, aged fifty-three. At the Court of James VI. he was high in favour, as shown by a letter, of which the following is a copy :—

"James VI. ; To the Presbyterie of Mernis, 4 Aprile 1603. Trustie freindis, we greet you heartlie weill, ye sall wit, we have thocht guid and expedient that Mr Alexander Forbes, ane of your number, sall accompanie us towards London, God-willing, to attend upon our service thair, with certaine uther of the brethren appointed to the same effect, and likewise to recive from us bak agane, directions to the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie for preserving of peace and unitie in the Kirk, quhairof we ar maist desyrus as ye have found heirtfoir be experience—Quhairfoir we will you and commandes that ye provyde his Kirk of Fetterkarine with ane of the brethren of your presbetrie quha may best and maist convenientlie serve to his returning, in all poyntis of the ministrie, and this faill not to do, as ye will do us acceptabill service. At Halyrud houss, the fourt of Apryl, 1603."

"To our trustie friendis, the ministeris  
of the presbitirie of the Mernis."

William Wischart, A.M., son of Sir John Wischart of Pitarrow, was laureated at King's College, Aberdeen, in 1606, and admitted to Fettercairn, as coadjutor to Bishop Forbes, in 1611. He was translated to the parish of Minto in 1613; presented again by James VI. to Fettercairn in 1618; and translated to South Leith in 1630. His successor was David Strachan, A.M., descended from the family of Inchtuthill, a branch of the house of Thornton.

He graduated at the Edinburgh University in 1622, and acted as a Commissioner of Assembly in 1645, 1647, and 1648. He petitioned Parliament in February, 1646, craving payment for his losses by Montrose's raid and for his maintenance. In 1661 he was named by Parliament one of the Commissioners for visiting the University of Aberdeen; and was promoted to the Bishopric of Brechin in 1662. His wife was a sister of Barclay of Ury.

William Chalmers, A.M. of King's College, Aberdeen, was translated in 1665 from Aberluthnot (Marykirk), and died at London in 1669, aged about 49. In 1678 the ministers of the Presbytery contributed 6s. 8d. stg. each for the benefit of his widow in a poor and sickly condition.

Hercules Skinner, A.M., son of Laurence Skinner, minister of Navar, graduated at St. Andrews in 1651; was appointed schoolmaster of Brechin in 1653; ordained minister of Navar in 1658, and translated to Fettercairn and inducted in 1669 by the "Presbytery of Aberbrothock" (that of the bounds till 1700). He married Agnes, daughter of Mr Patrick Lyon, minister of Barry, and had a son Hercules and a daughter Isabel. He died in January, 1698, in the 67th year of his age and 40th of his ministry. "He was awand to Mr David Clerk the helper for one year's salary ij<sup>c</sup> li. (200 pounds or £16 13s. 4d.); to a physician xxix li. (£2 8s. 4d.); and for drogs, ij<sup>c</sup> li.; the funeral cost ij<sup>c</sup> li.; Frie geir (from his effects), d.d. j<sup>c</sup> xlvj li. vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> (£12 3s. 10<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>d.)."

In Mr Skinner's time the yearly communion, for want of room in the church or some other reason, required two Sundays for its celebration. A minute authorising the visitation of the several "Churches lyand within the bounds of the Presbytery of the Mearns" was adopted and signed by James Sharpe, Archbishop of St. Andrews, on 27th April, 1677. On the 23rd August, 1682, the brethren of the Presbytery met in the Church of

“Fettercardine,” and after a sermon preached by Mr Robert Rait of Aberluthnot from Malachi iiic. 13v., Mr Hercules Skinner, minister of the parish,

“was called and asked if he had fulfilled his duties faithfully.”—  
“Answered he had.” A list of the names of the Heritors, Clergy, Elders and Deacons being given in to the Presbytery. There being present of Heritors, Sir Charles Ramsay of Balmain, Andrew Middleton of Pitgarvie, who appeared as having the oversight of my Lord Middleton’s lands, himself also being an Heritor in the Parish; who also being Elders. The Elders being called and asked if the Minister had done his duty faithfully; Heritors called, and had the same question put. Both replied that he had been faithful in the discharge of all his ministerial duties. Minister again called and had ten questions put to him. Asked in absence of Heritors, Elders and Deacons, whether they had zealously assisted him. He answered, ‘they had.’ Being asked whether they had a Schoolmaster, it was answered that they had one, who had tolerable maintenance, and they were satisfied with his carriage.”

These minutes were all signed by “Mr Alexr. Grant, Clerk.” This antiquated practice is partly described in a recent magazine article in the following terms:—

“In the olden time, two Sunday sermons, and one during the week, on the ‘mercat’ day, were required of the minister. He was under the supervision of the Kirk Session, for some time after the Reformation, but claimed the privilege of fixing the hours of worship, and selecting of texts. Presbyteries visited parishes, and catechised the elders one by one (the minister being retired) concerning his behaviour, &c. Whether a haunter of ale-houses; a swearer of minced oaths; whether he studied on Saturdays only; whether disposed to court popularity instead of censuring his flock; and whether his preaching was hard to be understood. Ministers were often in a dilemma. If they occupied ten or eleven Sabbaths with continuous exposition of one text, they were in danger of rebuke. If, on the other hand, they disposed of their subject too quickly, that gave rise to complaint, such as made against the minister of Craigie, ‘that he doth often change his text, and doth not raise many heads, and doth not prosecute such as he names, but “*scruffs them.*”’”



Not so direct and outspoken was the pawky verdict of a Fettercairn parishioner. During the vacancy in 1858, the ministers of Fordoun Presbytery in their turn supplied the pulpit. A worthy old clergyman officiated one day, but from his hesitancy and confused delivery few could make out his meaning. As the congregation were retiring by the door, one elderly ploughman was heard asking another, "Weel, fou did ye like him?" "Dod," replied the other, "he wan throu."

By the disestablishment, in 1689, of Episcopacy in Scotland, Mr Skinner was the last minister of that persuasion in the parish. After his death it was vacant for two years, no doubt owing to the troubles which had arisen in connection with the claims of David Clark the "helper" to be appointed his successor. In consequence of this delay the rights of the Crown lapsed, and the Presbytery *jure devoluto* appointed David Ramsay, A.M. of St. Andrews, probably related to the leading heritor, Sir David Ramsay of Balmain, and his ordination took place in March, 1700. He married a Margaret Raitt, had two daughters, and died in May, 1722, in the 53rd year of his age and 23rd of his ministry. Owing to a blank in the Parish Records, it is only from those of the Presbytery that anything is known of church matters during his ministry. It extended over the troublous years of the Rebellion. He was well affected to the existing Government, and, like many other parish ministers, his loyalty exposed him to persecution. Shortly after his appointment the Presbytery were called upon to settle a dispute among the heritors about their respective sittings in the church. "The kirk contained 40 *couples* of room," and each heritor claimed a number proportionate to his rental, reckoned in chalders of victual. The whole rental of the parish was valued at "eight score chalders." In January, 1701, Mr Ramsay submitted to the Presbytery a list of persons conferred with and examined by him as to

their fitness for eldership in the parish. They were subsequently ordained, and their names are—"Robert Gentleman in Raw of Balmain; John Kinloch in Drumhendry; John Pirie in Strath of Balmain; John Brown in Dalladies; Robert Aikenhead in Strath of Arnhall; Robert Falconer in Esslie; Alexander Valentine in Boggendollow; John Stewart in Loch (West Woodton); George Milne in the Inch; Thomas Chrystie in Nether Thenstone; William Mores in Balmain; Alexander Croll in Fettercairn; Alexander Chrystie in Strawnossen; James Wood in Thorniehill; John Willocks in Easter Woodton; and James Willocks in Fettercairn. This list of names, long forgotten, will interest not a few of the present generation, who may recognise in it some of their ancestors.

## CHAPTER XXVII.

MINISTERS (*continued*).

THE next minister was Anthony Dow, A.M., a graduate of St. Andrews and a licentiate of the Presbytery of Cupar, ordained minister of the parish, 26th September, 1723. He married Ann, eldest daughter of Mr William Reid, minister of Dunning, and had a son David, minister of Dron, and a daughter Jean, who married Mr Robert Trail, minister of Panbride. He died on 25th August, 1772, aged 78, and in the forty-ninth year of his ministry. It was the longest ministry of anyone either before or after in the parish; and in many respects, as will be seen, the most eventful. In the discharge of his duties he was very faithful, but, owing to infirmity and loss of memory in his latter years, he was laid aside from preaching; yet, it is said, that with the help of Mr Barclay, his assistant, alongside as prompter, he continued to the last to officiate at all the baptisms and marriages.

The elders in his time were, in 1733, Alexander Pickyman in Uppermill (Treasurer); Alexander Scott in Nethermill; William Ferguson in Mains of Fettercairn; and James Clark in Denstrath. The last named "joined the Independent faction in the village and was deposed." In 1741, James Law in Mains of Balbegno; James Wallace in Hillton of Dalladies; and James Niddrie in Fettercairn.



In 1742, David Low in Fettercairn (Treasurer); David Wylie (smith) in Stankeye; and William Christy in Stranosen. In 1748, David Carnegie, Robert Carnegie, and William Valentine (in land of Arnhall); Robert Valentine in Denstrath; and John Law in Mains of Drumhendry. And in 1765, John Kinloch in Uppermill; and James Law, junr., in Caldcotes. In those days the



MENDICANT'S BADGE.

office of elder was no sinecure. Besides the oversight of the congregation, many duties had to be performed. The care of the poor, the settling of quarrels between neighbours, and the suppression of disorder, took up much time and attention. Local incidents and details, however, may best be left over for a chapter on the social customs and the condition of the people in the eighteenth century. Mr Dow and his session introduced several changes. The

first holding of a fast day, for the yearly communion, was in 1727. The metal tokens for communicants were first issued in 1725. Badges of metal or parchment and bluegowns, as licenses to beg, were provided for the poor of the parish. The last set of mendicants' badges in Fettercairn was issued in 1817. Twenty-four of these, made of copper, were supplied to the Kirk Session at a cost of 1s. each, by Elizabeth Austin, merchant. The accompanying illustration is taken off one now in possession of the Rev. William Anderson.

In 1735 Mr Dow petitioned the Presbytery to take steps towards allocating to him from the kirk lands of the parish, a glebe of the full size allowed by law, the extent of his glebe, including office and garden, being only two acres and half a rood. The Presbytery discerned for four acres in addition "off a shade of land called 'Allonagoin' (Weaponshaw field), on the estate of Fettercairn, belonging to Colonel Straton in Old Montrose; between which shade and the land set apart for the minister's grass there is nothing interjected save ridges mortified to the schoolmaster of Fettercairn." By excambion in 1834, these ridges are represented by a square piece of land in the south-east corner of the glebe. Of Mr Dow's encounter with Davidson and his band some account has already been given; but in Mr Cruickshank's "*Navar and Lethnot*," just published, a further account is given of James Davidson, the rebel freebooter, who with his lawless band committed the raid on Fettercairn as noticed in Chapter VII. Davidson had been a soldier at the battle of Fontenoy, but deserted to the French, and joined the Rebellion in Scotland. After its suppression he headed a band of "outstanding rebels," made plundering attacks overnight on the houses of several Presbyterian ministers and schoolmasters loyal to the Hanoverian government, in the counties of Forfar, Kincardine and Aberdeen.

They carried off money and every article of value they could get hold of. For instance, Mr Harper, schoolmaster of Durris, was robbed of £30 sterling. Davidson was apprehended in Cortachy after he had committed two robberies there, and made an attempt on the life of the minister, Mr Brown. The date of his execution at Aberdeen was 1st July, 1748. The later years of Mr Dow's ministry became times of trouble and excitement. John Barclay, A.M., son of a farmer in the parish of Muthill, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Auchterarder (1759), and assistant in Errol parish, became assistant to Mr Dow in 1763. In a Biography of Mr Barclay, it is stated that he was of a fair and rather florid complexion. He looked younger than he really was ; and on account of his youthful appearance, the people of Fettercairn were at first greatly prejudiced against him. "But this was soon forgotten. His fervid manner, in prayer especially, and at different parts of almost every sermon, riveted the attention and impressed the minds of his audience to such a degree that it was almost impossible to lose the memory of it. His popularity as a preacher became so great at Fettercairn, that hardly anything of the kind was to be met with in the history of the Church of Scotland. The parish church, being an old-fashioned building, had rafters across. These were crowded with hearers ; the sashes of the windows were taken out to accommodate the multitude that could not gain admittance. During the whole period of his assistantship at Fettercairn he had regular hearers who flocked to him from ten or twelve of the neighbouring parishes. He had a most luxuriant fancy, and a great taste for poetry. His taste, however, was not very correct, and he lacked sound judgment. . . . Besides his works in prose, he published thousands of verses on religious subjects. He composed a paraphrase of the whole Book of Psalms, which was partly published in 1766." The



reference to the "rafters of the kirk" in the above quotation recalls an anecdote about the Kirk of Rerrick, in the stewartry of Kirkeudbright. Mr Rouat had been the minister, and was appointed Professor of Church History in the University of Glasgow. At the first sacrament of his successor, a Miss Dunlop, afterwards Lady Wallace, coming to church rather early, expressed her satisfaction to an old servant at seeing the church so decently filled. "Madam," said the old man, "this is nothing to what I have seen in Mr Rouat's time. I have heard the boogers (rafters) crackin' at sax o'clock in the mornin'." "The boogers crackin'! What do you mean, James?" said Miss Dunlop. "Yes, Madam," continued James, "I have seen the fowk in his time sittin' on the baulks o' the kirk like bykes o' bees."

By inculcating Antinomian doctrines, Mr Barclay incurred the displeasure of the heritors and the Presbytery. He nevertheless, with the concurrence of Mr Dow, petitioned for ordination, and was refused on the ground that he had no cure of souls. The Presbytery, moreover, by a majority had enjoined Mr Dow to dismiss his assistant, because of the principles advanced in a book published by him. Mr Dow replied that the press was free to any one to show whether the book contained "dangerous and damnable principles"; that it was arbitrary and unchristian to condemn a man unheard and not admonished; and that if he dismissed Mr Barclay, another could not be got to visit the sick and catechise the people. Whereupon Mr Barclay was summoned to appear before the Presbytery and answer whether he was the author of a book, that had meantime been examined by their committee, the title of the same being *Rejoice evermore; or, Christ all in all*, an original publication, consisting of spiritual songs collected from the Holy Scriptures, and several of the Psalms, together with the whole Song of Solomon paraphrased, with three

discourses relative to these subjects, and subscribed *John Barclay*? He answered "Yes." And whether he preached the doctrines contained in the book? He did. To other thirty-one queries put, he craved time to reply. In due time he sent his answers, as well as an apology and petition; but the Presbytery, after deliberation, considered them unsatisfactory, gave him a new set of queries to elicit more direct and explicit answers. His answers being only in part satisfactory, the Presbytery resolved to call him to their bar to be censured; and that this resolution be intimated in the church of Fettercairn.

These proceedings extended over two years to the close of 1768. Mr Barclay continued to act as assistant till the death of Mr Dow in August, 1772, but was no longer allowed to officiate in the church. He applied to the Presbytery for a certificate, and was refused. He appealed to the General Assembly, but they dismissed the case in May, 1773. The people believed, and not without reason, that the members of Presbytery were more or less prejudiced. Petitions were presented to the heritors and to His Majesty George III. in favour of Mr Barclay to be their minister. A volume recently published from the State Paper Records contains a summary of the said petitions, as well as a copy of a wonderfully worded letter to the Home Secretary. The letter and summary run as follows:—

"12th October, 1772. Alexander Wyllie to the Earl of Suffolk, entreating his Majesty to grant a petition in favour of Mr John Barclay, a gentleman to the liking of the whole parishioners for 9 years past, to be minister of Fettercairn, as the souls of the people in that parish are in hazard, as they think they cannot attain happiness in a future state, unless they gitt the said Mr John Barclay to be their minister.

"This awful circumstance, with submission to your Lordship, is a popular call to Mr Barclay to be minister, and were a pity he should not be settled, in regard that there are 2500 examinable

persons in the parish, old and young, who would fight for his Majesty till their shoes were full of blood, upon getting Mr Barclay to be their minister ; and, if they are frustrated, the consequence is of very great concern to such a numerous body of people who will obtain adherents in the whole country around, and by that step of theirs, although deemed irregular, unavoidably unforeseen disturbances, and the peace and quiet of families, brought about in flame and riot and disorder the one against the other may take place. And pray for what ? A minister. And as the numerous body of well civilized people wants Mr Barclay, they ought by the law of God, nature and nations to have him, as they are the only persons interested in the settlement. The heritors may pretend that the balance of power is in their hands with respect to the Establishment proposed to be observed in the Church of Scotland. I say that thought of theirs ought to go for nought. And the placing of a minister is to them nothing further than moonshine, and serving by jobs one for another ; and they laugh at our calamity because the stipend is in the gift of our worthy sovereign."

Then follows the summary :—

"Mr Wyllie also affirms that the heritors were not only none of them resident in the parish, but none members of the Communion of the Church of Scotland. He signs himself Agent and Doer for the parishioners of Fettercairn Parish, and gives for address : Alexander Wyllie of Penfield, notary public, at his lodgings in the city of Brechin, N. Brittain."

Following this letter is a petition to His Majesty to the same effect signed on behalf of the parishioners by the said Alexander Wyllie, Robert Henderson, merchant, and Alexander Hodge, farmer (Mains of Fasque).

"That petition states that, in 1770, Mr Barclay having given great satisfaction during Mr Dow, the pastor's, long sickness and infirmities, the parishioners, by the advice and direction of the landed gentlemen, drew up and subscribed a petition to them signifying their earnest desire to have Mr Barclay settled amongst them, and they were then led to believe that the heritors would have applied for His Majesty's consent to Mr Barclay's settlement ; but from some cause unknown, this application was never made. The late minister was also greatly desirous of seeing the parish comfortably settled before his death, and strongly recommended



Mr Barclay. The original petition to the heritors, referred to in the preceding petition, with a great number of signatures, is also with these papers."

Upon the refusal of these petitions, the deliverance of the General Assembly and the presentation of the Rev. Robert Foote to the church and parish, the people moved off in a body with Mr Barclay and worshipped for a time in a barn at Meikleha'. The church at Sauchieburn was soon after built and occupied by a congregation of ten or twelve hundred members, but Mr Barclay left in the end of the same year (1773) to be ordained to a congregation in Newcastle. He continued zealously and ardently to promulgate his views, and succeeded in forming congregations in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Crieff, Kirkcaldy, Arbroath, Montrose, Brechin, and other places. He died in Edinburgh on the 29th of July, 1798, aged 64; was interred in the Old Calton Churchyard, where a monument was afterwards erected to his memory. The sect he formed were called "Bereans" (from Acts xvii. 11), and the name was self-imposed. Their leading tenet was to reject established articles and confessions of faith, holding the Bible to be the only certain rule of faith and manners. They also held that all who possessed a full assurance of their own salvation were perfectly safe; but they did not pretend to found that assurance on the conformity of their actions to the rules of Christianity.

A Mr James Macrae, grandfather of the Rev. David Macrae, late of Dundee, was appointed in 1774 to the charge of Sauchieburn; and he laboured faithfully, not only as the minister, but very successfully as the teacher of a week-day school for the youth of the district. Some of his pupils, in later years as old people known to the writer, were wont fondly to relate their reminiscences of Mr Macrae and his school at Sauchieburn.

In course of time, and very much owing to the excellent

ministrations of Mr Foote, the Berean body dwindled, and many of the people returned to the church. Still, a few lay preachers kept up weekly meetings in their own private houses. One of these was Anthony Glen, who used to tell that if not allowed to preach he would *rive*. His discourses were homely. The following is a fair sample of his oratory, when discoursing on the love of money. "Fowk wud do a' things for the love o' money. They wud gang ower seas, an' into pairts whar naebody kenn'd them, an' a' for the greed o' gain. Their grace afore meat an' after meat, an' their prayers at a' time, was bawbees-Amen."

William Taylor, carrier, Raw of Balmain, was the last of the Berean preachers. After walking five miles he officiated regularly, along with others, at the Sunday meetings in Laurencekirk. He survived his colleagues; and with the last of them, a John Todd, farmer at Butterybraes, divided the duties of the Sunday, with a remark such as, "Noo, John, ye'll come up and lat's see daylight through the Romans." At Yule time John always warned his audience, "My frien's, beware o' cairds an' dice and that bewitchin' thing the totum." The chapel, a small building, stood in what is now known as "Berean Lane." About 1840 the services there ceased, and William conducted Sunday meetings in his own barn at Balmain, to which not a few repaired to take stock of his sayings. On one occasion his father, a frail old man, acted as precentor, and according to the custom when books were scarce, he tried to recite line by line to be sung. But William, not pleased with the effort, sharply interposed, and addressing him in the same musical tone, said, "Ye stupid eediot, lat's see the buik, an' I'll sing mysel'." In the course of his ministrations in the barn, William on one occasion worked himself up to a great flight of oratory, some of his illustrations being quite unrepeatable. Once he quite

excelled himself. "Put on the shield of faith," ma friends; "Arm yourselves wi' the gospel"; and imitating the charging of the old muzzle loader of the time, he exclaimed, "Ram it home to the breech, ma dear brethren, once again to the breech"; then, as it were shouldering and directing the gun, he passionately exclaimed, "And we'll shoot the devil like a rotten i' the crap o' the wa' wi' the gun o' salvation. Amen."

About 1834 two gentlemen, acting on a Government Commission anent Church statistics, called upon Mr Whyte, the parish minister, and after getting from him what they required, he mentioned the name of William Taylor, the Berean preacher. They went and found him at the plough. The following colloquy took place: "You are a preacher, we believe."—"Maybe I am."—"What stipend do you receive?"—"Ou! nae muckle."—"But how much?"—"Ou! maybe thirty shillin's."—"Have you any other occupation?"—"Ou! I gang to Montrose wi' the cairt, and sometimes I fell swine." He died in the early sixties. The Bereans, in the place where they had their origin, are now extinct. The last of the sect in Laurencekirk were two old women, and when one of them died the other feelingly remarked, "Wae's me! when I gang too the Bereans'll be 'clean licket aff!" Whatever may be said of Mr Barclay and the Bereans, it must be admitted that good effects were produced, inasmuch as devout feelings and orderly conduct took the place of many evil habits.



## CHAPTER XXVIII.

MINISTERS (*continued*).

ON the 16th September, 1773, Mr Robert Foote, minister of Eskdalemuir, in the county of Dumfries, son of the Rev. Charles Foote, minister of Kinnoull, was inducted in the face of great opposition and personal abuse. According to local tradition, the members of Presbytery were escorted to the church by a guard of soldiers. This incident in the story, never fully confirmed, might rather refer to the ordination of Mr Ramsay in 1700, when opposed, as before stated, by Mr Clark and his supporters. It is true, however, that the carriage which brought Mr Foote and his friends was assailed with stones, and that, on the path up "the brae" to the church, they were shamefully insulted and disgustingly abused by a crowd that stood in line to wait their arrival. On the same day there arose a storm of wind which shook the ripe corn, and did other mischief. Many of the people, highly superstitious, looked upon it as a special visitation of Heaven, and they spoke of it ever after as "Foote's wind." The call to Mr Foote in February previous had been signed by only "Episcopal Heritors, two poor cottars, and a few non-jurants." The non-jurants were the old Jacobites who had refused to swear allegiance to King George.

Mr Foote's excellence as a preacher, his exemplary life, and his unwearied diligence in the discharge of his duties,

with his kindly bearing towards all, soon gained him many friends, so much so indeed, that his death was sincerely and universally regretted. His name continued for many years to be a household word with the old people of the parish. A new manse was built for him the year after his induction. He married, in 1778, Jane, daughter of Mr James Smith, minister of Garvock, and had nineteen children, of whom only five survived him. Of these were, the Rev. James Foote, D.D., minister of Logie Pert, and thereafter of the East Church, Aberdeen; the Rev. Alexander Leith-Ross Foote, D.D., of Brechin; and Archibald Foote, merchant, Montrose. Mr Foote's publications were, "Sermons with a Memoir," and the "Statistical Account of the Parish." He died on the 1st of July, 1809, in the 68th year of his age and the 41st of his ministry.

The elders ordained by him were: David Law, James Watson, David Mitchell, David Carnegie, David Wylie, and Robert Falconer, in 1775; also John Watt, in Wandershill, in 1779. And, subsequently, David Alexander, in Hallhill, John Gibb, in Caldcotes, and William Thow, in Coldstream.

The next minister was James Keyden, son of the Rev. James Keyden of Dunbog. He was ordained on the 5th of April, 1810, and voluntarily retired from the charge in 1814, when he became purser to a vessel in the Hon. East India Co.'s service. He died unmarried at Lochee, 5th November, 1821, in the 37th year of his age. A short time before he retired, in 1814, two of his elders, whom he had ordained in 1811, Mr George Sanderson, factor at The Burn, and Mr Robert Vallentine, farmer, Bogmuir, waited upon him at the manse to tender their resignation; alleging that they were dissatisfied with his conduct and attention to duty. "Very glad to see you, gentlemen," said he, "for I seriously thought of asking you to resign, and if you did not, to compel you."

In December, 1814, John Muir, a native of West Calder, who had been a tutor at Benholm Castle, was ordained assistant and successor; but demitted in September, 1816, on being presented to the church and parish of St. Vigeans, where he died in 1859. The old trees around the glebe were planted by him. The elders he ordained were: John Falconer, Balnakettle; George Sheriffs, Fasque; George Wallace, Midmains; and Peter Milne, East Burnside.

Alexander Whyte, A.M. of King's College, Aberdeen, son of David Whyte, farmer, Clova, succeeded Mr Muir, and was ordained as assistant and successor to Mr Keyden on 13th March, 1817. He had been for the three previous years parish schoolmaster of Auchterhouse, and for some time before a tutor in the family of the Earl of Airlie. He married, in 1827, Jane Farquhar, daughter of the Rev. James Shand, minister of Marykirk. She died in October, 1843, leaving a family of two sons and two daughters. Of their younger son Alexander, a distinguished naturalist, some account will hereafter be given. Mr Whyte died on the 11th January, 1858, in the 68th year of his age and the 41st of his ministry. The memorial tablet in the church has been already noticed. His leading publications were, "The Duty of Prayer," "Heritage of God's People," "The Lord's Supper," "Exposure of the Rev. William Nixon's Erroneous Statements as to Moderatism; and of his Unconstitutional Views as to the Church Defence Associations and intruding into the parishes of his brethren"; also, "The New Statistical Account of the Parish." Mr Whyte was a good Latinist, and dealt largely in pithy maxims and phrases. Of these, the following are yet visible at Auchterhouse, scratched upon the panes of a window that had done duty in the old schoolhouse: "Tunc intravit" (Then entered), "Alexander Whyte, November 15th, 1813. Alexander Whyte, February 15th, 1817. Nunc exivit" (Now left). "Patientia, persever-



antia, et diligentia, cum magna eruditione, valde necessariae sunt doctori." (Patience, perseverance and diligence, with a great deal of learning, are very necessary to the teacher.) In ordinary conversation he was terse and forcible. At the writer's first interview, he summarised the career of an old schoolmaster of his time in the following terms: "Mr — ran much, a welcome guest to the farmers' houses, sipped their tea, drank their toddy, caught cold and died." At a meeting in the village he said to a young parishioner who was speaking rather freely, "Young man, it seems to me a very few years since I baptised you." And on another occasion, when suffering from a severe cold, Dr. Fettes prescribed a mustard poultice. "Doctor," he observed, "they tell me I have enough mustard in my constitution already." "Perhaps they are right," replied the doctor, "but a little external application may take some of the inside article out." Although overtaken in his latter years by bodily ailments, he continued zealously and faithfully to perform the duties of his office.

Of elders ordained by him were: James Durie, Nethermill; James Mackie, Thorniehill; James Gibb, Arnhall; and David Jolly, Meiklestrath, in 1845; James Dickson, Greendykes; and James Renny, Mill of Woodton, in 1857.

The Rev. Adam Inch Ritchie, minister of St. David's Church, Dundee, was chosen by the congregation, presented by the crown, and in due course inducted to the church and parish on the 28th July, 1858. He married, in 1859, Marion-Elizabeth, only daughter of Alexander Young, Procurator-Fiscal of Dumfries, and sister of the Hon. George Young, now a Lord of Session. She died, much regretted, 11th January, 1864, leaving a family of two sons and one daughter. Mr Ritchie introduced changes and effected improvements in the conduct of church matters; and by his genial and kindly disposition endeared himself to the people. He was translated to the church and parish

of Whitekirk and Tynninghame in March, 1867. Having retired, he now resides in Edinburgh. By his second marriage with Susan, third daughter of the late James Durie, distiller, Fettercairn, he has a son, James. Mrs Ritchie died in 1898.

The Rev. William Anderson, minister of Melville Church, Montrose, in compliance with a petition from the people of the parish, was presented to the church, and on the 8th August, 1876, was duly inducted to the charge. In the same year he married Grace-Isabella, eldest daughter of Captain Daniel Ferguson, of Irvine, and their family consists of four sons and two daughters. It is gratifying to note that during the ministry of the present incumbent progress in theological thought, reforms of church service, and the introduction of a pipe organ in order to improve the service of praise in God's house are all commendable features in the present-day ecclesiastical life of the parish.

#### THE FREE CHURCH.

The rise and progress of the Free Church in Scotland forms an important part of the ecclesiastical history of the nation. The movement now known as the "Ten years' conflict," which ended in the Disruption, as in many other places, exerted its influence in Fettercairn, and perhaps, from a cause which need not here be assigned, affected the village much more than the rest of the parish. Shortly before the Disruption one or two meetings were held in a hall of the Ramsay Arms Hotel, and some leading clergymen as a deputation attended to expound the principles of the movement. Great excitement prevailed. Mr Whyte, the parish minister, was present, and did his best to caution his people. A large number adhibited their names to documents prepared for the securing of adherents. After the Disruption a new congregation was

formed, but it must be admitted that strife and ill-will were serious elements in its formation; and although the Free Church in a way has effected a revival of religious work and done much good, yet the unkindly feelings, brought about and kept up for years between neighbours and friends, was much to be deplored.

The first minister was the Rev. David Paton, who had been ordained in 1841 to the *quoad sacra* church of Chapeltown, Glassford, in the county of Lanark, and who had cast in his lot with the Disruption ministers. He was inducted at Fettercairn in March, 1844. His father was John Paton, manufacturer, Montrose, and grandfather, James Paton, D.D., parish minister of Craig. He married Catherine, daughter of John Shaw, writer, Cupar-Fife, and she died in 1898. Their family consists of one son and two daughters. Having discharged with great faithfulness his ministerial duties, Mr Paton retired in 1880, and now resides in Edinburgh. He is descended from the Middletons of Fettercairn. His father inherited portraits of Charles, the second Earl, by Sir Peter Ley, and of several other members of the Middleton family, one by Gainsborough. They are now at Links House, Montrose.

Robert Henderson Abel, a native of Skene, and an alumnus of Aberdeen University, was ordained as colleague and successor in May, 1881. He demitted in 1891, and emigrated to take the charge of a congregation in the town of London, South Africa.

John Ramsay Macmillan, A.M. of Aberdeen, a native of the Garioch, was ordained as colleague and successor to Mr Paton in April, 1892, and continues efficiently to discharge the duties of his sacred office.

#### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The first incumbent of the Episcopal Church at Fasque, in 1846-7, was Mr Teed, who officiated for nine months, and



was succeeded by Alexander Irvine, who died in March, 1852.

The next incumbent was Mr Charles Aitken from Coatbridge, who laboured with much acceptance and popularity. He took an active and leading part in the institution and management of the Fettercairn and District Subscription Library. The state of his health compelled him to retire, and he died in 1858. During his incumbency, he was often assisted by Alexander Somerville, a retired clergyman, residing in Fettercairn. George Frederick Hardman Foxton succeeded and continued ably in charge till 1871, when he removed to the Rectory of Gedney Drove, in Lincolnshire. And now, since that date, for a period longer than all his predecessors together, the Rev. Andrew Holmes Belcher, A.M., has, with much credit, held the cure.

## CHAPTER XXIX.

## SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLMASTERS.

IN the First Book of Discipline (1560) the Reformers recommended that a school for “the first rudiments” of learning should be established in every parish, and “a college for logic, rhetoric, and the tongues” in every “notable town.” In pursuance of this design, the Privy Council in 1616 enacted that in every parish a Grammar School should be established and supported by the heritors. This Act was ratified by the Parliament of 1633. Referring to Fettercairn, little is known except that, in 1567 and down at least to 1574, John Thom, as before stated, was reader and schoolmaster, at a salary of 24 merks, or less than £2 stg. It thus appears that Fettercairn, if not in the forefront, was not behind in carrying out the wishes of the Reformers. Concerning the school during the next hundred years, the traditional story of the Countess of Middleton’s grant of land in 1666 to the schoolmaster, whose name is not given, and also the word “predecessoris” in a minute of 1674, supply sufficient evidence that a succession of schoolmasters was kept up, and that the heritors had assessed themselves in accordance with the enactments of 1616 and 1633. The minute runs as follows:—

1674, Ma. ij. last. The qlk day The Heritoris, Minister and Elderis did Receave Mr Alexander Morrice, Student of Divinitie in ye Marischall Collage of Abd. to be Schoollmaster, Precentor

and Session Clerk, allowing such yeirlie sallarie as was formerlie payit to his predecessoris w<sup>t</sup> oyr casualities usit and wont; the list q<sup>r</sup> of is as followeth:—

Ye Laird of Balmayne, 44 m'kis is	...	£29	6	8	Scots
Item out of ye landis of Arnhall, 20 m'kis is	...	£13	6	8	„
Item out of ye landis of Balbegno and Bonakettle					
(13 <sup>8</sup> / <sub>10</sub> )	... ..	£09	4	0	„
Item out of ye landis ptyning to ye Erle of Middleton (11 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>10</sub> )	... ..	£07	16	0	„
Togidder w <sup>t</sup> ane boll of bear mortified by ye late Countess of (13 <sup>19</sup> / <sub>20</sub> )	... ..	£09	6	0	„
Item out of ye landis of Balfour ptyning to Lauranstoun (7 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub> )	.. ...	£05	0	0	„
Item out ye lands of Dalladies, 5 m'kis is	...	£03	6	8	„
Item be ye Session for Clerk fie and p'centorship (5)		£03	6	8	„
		<hr/>			
		£80 12 8			

The total amount of the above is 120<sup>19</sup>/<sub>20</sub> merks = £80 12s. 8d. Scots, or £6 14s. 4<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>d. stg.

In Nov., 1678, James Watson, a student of Marischal College, was appointed schoolmaster, session-clerk, and precentor upon the same terms as his predecessors. Three years afterwards he was suspended from office on account of a misdemeanour, and had to satisfy the Kirk Session by three public appearances in church. He was thereafter restored to office. Alexander Strachan was session-clerk at the time, but regarding the school nothing is stated. In the *Commisariat of St. Andrews* the name of James Watson appears as deceased in 1686. With no record for the next fourteen years, nothing is known about school or schoolmaster. But in March, 1701, John Gentleman attended a Presbytery Meeting at Conveth and signed the Confession of Faith as schoolmaster of Fettercairn. His appointment, however, was probably a year or two earlier, or soon after the passing of the Parish Schools Act in 1696.

Along with some other schoolmasters in the Mearns, who had favoured the Rebellion, he appeared by summons



before the Presbytery at Ecclesgreig, on 16th April, 1716, and confessed that he had read in the church to the congregation three rebellious papers; but that he was forced to do so "by threats of parties belonging to Marr's camp"; the first paper being for cess, and the other two for levying men to follow the Pretender. "He thought he had got Mr Ramsay's authority," but this the latter denied. He partly confessed that two bonfires had been kindled at his house, "as rejoicings for the Pretender's safe arrival," and that he had drunk his health, "under the name and title of King James." He denied that he had fallen down on his knees, or blest the Pretender, or said, "it was the blaithest sight he had seen." He likewise denied that he had ever cursed King George, or that his scholars "had abused the minister or persons who owned the Government." He admitted that he kept a young man to teach his school and "did not do it himself, as he was factor to Balbegno, and was also obliged to keep a 'chaings' (public house), that he might be able to take care of his old parents." Whereupon he was deposed; and so were also, for the like offence, the schoolmasters of Fetteresso and Dunnottar.

Sir Alexander Ramsay and the other heritors empowered Mr Ramsay to look out for a well qualified person to be schoolmaster. Alexander Strachan, having testimonials from the Presbytery of Aberdeen, was examined, and admitted on 4th December, 1716. He held office for only a year and a half. John Ogilvie of Balbegno, in 1717, petitioned the Presbytery to restore John Gentleman to the office; and Sir Alexander Ramsay, in February, 1718, made a similar request, but both were refused, on the ground that the office was not vacant. On the 1st July following, Mr Ramsay brought up John Melville, from the parish of Birse, to be examined for the office, as Mr Strachan was about to leave. All this implies that he did not give satisfaction. Mr Melville, being found not fully qualified,

was appointed for one year, "with a view to get ane act of admission according to his improvement." He succeeded, and continued till 1st April, 1737, when John Law was appointed and held office for only six months. The salary at this juncture was equal to £5 13s. 4d. stg. Mr John Gentleman acted as clerk to the heritors and Kirk Session. In October, 1737, Robert Milne became schoolmaster; and after his death, in 1741, the Kirk Session, on account of some failure of duty, refused, but were compelled at the instance of the Procurator-Fiscal to pay his last year's salary. James Bate, son of William Bate in Kincardine, a student of King's College, Aberdeen, was appointed schoolmaster, session-clerk, and precentor. It was in the last year of his tenure that the Brechin band, in their onset, burnt the school-house and destroyed the session records.

On the 4th November, 1747, David Niddry, son of James Niddry in Mains of Balbegno, laid a presentation from a majority of the heritors in his favour before the Presbytery; but Sir Alexander Ramsay objected by letter, on the ground that Niddry was too young, not properly qualified, and not able to act as precentor; and besides, that the presentation was made without a formal meeting of heritors. Niddry was examined and found rather deficient, but was given a trial of the school for six months. John Gordon, schoolmaster, of Logie and Pert, was presented by Sir Alexander and certain others of the heritors, and was, after several meetings and correspondence with the Presbytery, appointed in 7th December, 1748; while Niddry in the meantime, supported by a petition from heads of families in the parish, made an unsuccessful appeal to the Synod.

Regarding the kind of school accommodation at this period, in contrast with that of the present day, some idea may be formed from entries in the Kirk Session Records, thus:—"1735, November. For a bed to the school, £6 6s."

(Scots); and "1750, November. Got from James Stephen, in payment of the old school bed, £3" (Scots). The bed was for "gangrel buddies"; and the school, mean in construction, and very much a hovel, was the poor's lodging-house. A rather uneducative arrangement.

Whether the schoolmaster had any allowance for lodging the beggars is not known, but to him another custom not quite so humane was a source of income. To the annual cock-fight, held on Handsel Monday or Shrove Tuesday in the school-room, the older boys brought each his bird and paid dues to the "maister." These dues were stated, in one parish (Applecross, Ross-shire), to be "equal to a quarter's payment of the scholars." The animals were set two and two to fight till the floor was stained with their blood. With them it was "the survival of the fittest," and the death of the weaker ones, which were handed over as a perquisite to the schoolmaster. The boy who owned the victorious cock was rewarded, "dubbed king of the school," and allowed for a time to do very much as he pleased. This barbarous custom was kept up in Fettercairn till the early years of the present century, and till a much later period in some other parishes. It continued at least till 1826, "the year o' the short corn," at the school of Clattering Brig, which, for the children of the crofters and lime-burners,<sup>1</sup> was taught by an enterprising individual, "Dominie Young," who in one end of his biggin' had the school and in the other end a public-house, opened in opposition to the late inn of Knowgreens a little higher up on the Cairn o' Mount road.

The next schoolmaster of Fettercairn was John Harper, teacher of a school in Glendye, who was appointed school-

<sup>1</sup>The limestone quarry became unworkable, and was given up about 1832. The farms and crofts of Glenburnie and its braes are now all run out in grass for sheep and cattle. The only dwelling that remains is the gamekeeper's cottage seen in the picture at page 63.



master and session-clerk on 12th March, 1755. His tenure was of longer duration ; but for a number of years before his death, in 1794, bodily affliction and blindness laid him aside from duty. Mr Foote, in his account of the parish written in 1792, refers to the school and the teachers as follows: "A new house and teaching room were lately built. The salary is £6 6s. 8d. stg., with half an acre of land and a small garden. The fees for teaching English are 1s. 6d ; for Latin and Arithmetic, 2s. 6d. (per qr.) The schoolmaster is a very old man, and has been blind for sixteen years. Several young men have served as assistants, but having no fixed salary they were always changing. The inconveniences arising from this state determined the heritors to secure an assistant by presenting him to the succession. To encourage a qualified person to accept, £10 stg. is given by a Lady (The Lady Jane Leslie) to the assistant, to continue during the life of the old schoolmaster ; but on that account the assistant is to teach a Sunday school. The pious and respectable benefactress visits that school herself, and bestows suitable rewards upon such of the scholars as show a desire to profit by that useful institution."

The assistant and successor alluded to was David Adamson, who married the old man's daughter Barbara. The old people of the past generation who had been Adamson's pupils spoke with kindly feelings of "Bawbie Harper" ; but some of their school reminiscences showed that now and again they loved frolic more than learning. Mr Adamson might be a good teacher, but his discipline was hardly a match for young Fettercairn. The teaching room, as Mr Foote called it, was small, only about 18 feet by 16, and thus it served till 1843. Its ceiling, not lofty, was constructed of joists and loose boards, above which were stored the master's peats and sods for winter fuel. The writers and counters sat *vis à vis* along both sides of a

long table in the middle of the room; and on several occasions, when some learners more diligent than the rest were poring over their exercises, and the master's back about, an idle imp, watching his opportunity, with a stick or staff from under the table poked overhead to bring down a shower of dross and dust on slates and copybooks. Another wicked prank of theirs was to fill one of the peats which they brought every morning, with gunpowder, and have it on the fire to explode and scatter the embers. This happened more than once, when, of an afternoon, the master fell a-nodding on his desk at the fireside. Mr Adamson died suddenly in April, 1817. Under him, as in most of the parish schools, the only class books were the following, and they were used in this order, viz.: 1, The Shorter Catechism, with an A B C on the cover; 2, The New Testament; 3, Solomon's Proverbs; 4, The Bible; and 5, Barrie's Collection. The first graduated series of Reading Books was brought out in 1818, by an Association of the Parochial Schoolmasters of Scotland.

James Nicholson, son of the parish schoolmaster of Craig, was next appointed. He taught the school, and held the parochial offices till his death in February, 1843. He made himself popular in the parish; not so much by his teaching as by his lively, agreeable, and obliging disposition. He acted as secretary to the Fettercairn Farmers' Club.

His successor was Alexander Inglis, assistant in Montrose Academy. Hitherto, the school and school-house formed one building at "the Townhead"; but after Mr Inglis's appointment, a new school-room, of inside dimensions, 30 feet by 20, was built upon the site now occupied by the Public Hall. Mr Inglis left in 1845, on being appointed to the Parish School of Arbroath; and afterwards became Rector of Bathgate Academy. In 1860 he was appointed Principal of Charlottetown College, Prince Edward's

Island. He was honoured with the degree of LL.D. He married Charlotte, a sister of the Rev. Alexander Whyte of Fettercairn, and their son is the Rev. John Macdonald Inglis, A.M., minister of Penninghame. Dr Inglis returned to Scotland, and died a few years ago.

The next schoolmaster was James Low, a native of Forfar district, and a licentiate of the Church, who had taught in the Douglas Academy, Newton-Stewart. He left in November, 1851, on being ordained as a missionary to Victoria. Returning to Scotland in 1871, he took up his abode in Aberdeen, and died there, leaving a widow but no family.

The writer of these pages was next appointed on 17th December, 1851, from the school of Meikleour in the county of Perth. He graduated A.M. in 1849 at Marischal College, and received the degree of LL.D. in 1888 from the University of Aberdeen. Holding a teacher's certificate, of date 1848, he introduced the pupil teacher system, and the school premises becoming insufficient, the present school was built in 1860, and enlarged in 1891. The heritors, with enlightened liberality, also erected the present commodious school-house upon the site of the old one in 1864. After nearly forty-four years' service retirement came at 1st October, 1895. With one exception, this tenure is the longest on record of any minister or schoolmaster in the parish. The Rev. Anthony Dow held office for nearly forty-nine years.

In August, 1895, Donald M'Kinven, from Rothesay Academy, a native of Campbeltown, was appointed. After a highly successful career as pupil teacher, he took the first place on the list of the Glasgow Established Church Training College, and graduated A.M. at the University. The high position taken by the headmaster augurs well for the continued success of the school.



## OTHER SCHOOLS IN THE PARISH.

In the Statistical Account written by Mr Whyte in 1837, he states that, besides the Parish School attended by about 68 scholars, other four schools had an aggregate attendance of about 120; and some smaller places (dame schools in their own private houses) had about 40 children. A school at Dalladies, supported by subscriptions and school fees, was managed by the late Charles Durie the tenant, and taught by young men hired from year to year. It was given up about 1848.

A female school in the village was supported by fees and a small salary paid by Sir John and Lady Harriet Stuart Forbes. It was closed in 1861, on the appointment of a female teacher in the Parish School.

The school at Inch of Arnhall was an adventure school, in a room rent free, with only the fees paid by the scholars. It was taught by male teachers; but at a later period Colonel M'Inroy paid a small salary, and for a few years down to 1872 it was ably conducted by Miss Hannah Gold, LL.A. of St. Andrews, now in the Public School of Alyth. Under the provisions of the Education (Scotland) Act, 1872, the Free Church School in the village, taught for a year after its opening in 1849 by Thomas Bruce, and from 1850 with marked success by Alexander Murray, was closed; and Mr Murray was transferred to Inch new school, and conducted it till his death in 1879. Mr Adam Moodie, from Landsend School, was then appointed; and he continues very successfully to keep up the efficiency of the institution.

The school at Oldmains of Fasque was taught for a number of years by male teachers. One of these was David Durward, A.M., a licentiate of the Church, who in 1842 became parish schoolmaster of Marykirk and afterwards of Maryculter. Francis Birse was the next teacher

and he left about 1856 to conduct a school in Luthermuir. Shortly thereafter a new and commodious female school and teachers' rooms were erected by Lady Gladstone. The efficiency and good reputation of the school have been well maintained by a succession of trained and certificated female teachers; and by none of these more thoroughly than by Miss Munro, who has for a number of years ably discharged the duties of headmistress.

In former times a large number of infants and young children were taught to read, knit and sew by elderly women, who, generally living alone, found it convenient to keep school at their own firesides. Fifty years ago some four or five of these humble seminaries flourished here and there in the parish; but according as the efficiency of the public schools increased, they one by one ceased to exist. In primitive fashion and with good intentions they served their day. The easier portions of the Bible and the Shorter Catechism were conned over, and by the older girls committed to memory. In the last of these schools, one day a little girl was set up to repeat to the parish minister the whole metrical version of the 119th Psalm. The good old and kind mistress, in another of the same, was not herself very proficient in pronouncing the proper names, even those of the New Testament. She was heard on one occasion to solve the difficulty of a young tyro with the name "Caesar Augustus," by saying: "Little ane, he wus a muckle man, king in the East; mak' a pass-by o' him."

## Part Sixth.

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# NOTEWORTHY FAMILIES AND PERSONS —MISCELLANEOUS.

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## CHAPTER XXX.

### FAMILIES.

OF the old families in the parish only a few very general notices can here be given. In the Kirk Session Registers of last century some fifteen or sixteen different surnames appear to represent the leading families of the parish. About two-thirds of that number, their direct descendants, remained as tenant-occupiers during the first half of this century, and nearly one-half the number continued for a few years longer; but now a perusal of the Valuation Roll reveals the fact that the old familiar names have mostly all disappeared.

The Woods descended from the old landowners of Balbegno, the Stratons from those of Balfour, and the Carnegies from the houses of Pitarrow and Arnhall, were very numerous down to the early years of the present century, but now not one remains. Other families, now wholly extinct in the parish, and whose direct representatives, wherever they may be, are unknown, were those of



Kinloch, who occupied the Straths of Balmain; of Law, whose holdings were Balbegno, Caldcotes and Drumhendry; of Christie, who occupied the braes of Balnakettle and Balfour; of Forbes, Croll, Gibb, Gray, and Waldie, all numerous. The Croalls, coachbuilders in Edinburgh, were descendants of a Croll at Craigmoston. The forbears of Messrs Gibb and Gray, merchants, Manchester, were the Gibbs of Arnhall, and John Gray, merchant, Fettercairn. James Gibb, the last of the name in the parish, was tenant of Arnhall, and died in 1857.

The Austines, an English name, settled in the parish during the seventeenth century. One hundred years ago, an Austine was tenant of Nether Craginiston, now the upper part of Coldstream farm. George Austine of Nether Thainstone had a large family of daughters. John Austine, a brother, was a merchant in the village, whose son James succeeded as merchant and postmaster. His son John became a wealthy coalmaster near Hamilton, a Colonel of volunteers, and died in 1893. A nephew of his, James Austine, warehouseman, Glasgow, is the only one left.

The Valentines, whose progenitor was Valentine of Thornton, a favourite of Robert the Bruce, were, till of late, numerous and influential in the parish, but so few are now left that ere long the name will become extinct. Eighty years ago, a Robert Valentine, farmer, Bogendollo, left a benefaction to the poor; and Robert Vallentine, farmer of Bogmuir and Inch, an authority in agriculture, died in 1868. A daughter Margaret became the wife of the late Rev. George Gilfillan of Dundee. A son James was tenant of Arnhall, and his son is William M-Inroy Vallentine, banker, and ex-Provost of Brechin.

The Falconers, the hereditary hawkers of William the Lion and his successors, held a high position among the leading families of the Mearns. Their direct connection with Fettercairn began with the eighteenth century, when

Lady Phesdo acquired the lands of Balnakettle; but that connection no longer exists. A cadet of the Phesdo family, Robert Falconer, occupied the Broadlands,<sup>1</sup> and, in 1746, removed to Balnakettle. His wife was Jean Hutcheon, and their son John succeeded. By his wife Janet Niddrie<sup>2</sup> he had a family of five sons and two daughters. Their daughter Elizabeth became Mrs Stewart of Ballaterich, Deeside; and Nancy, Mrs Watt, Waterhead. Their sons were James and John of Balnakettle, and after 1856, of Arnbarrow; George, a West Indies planter; Robert, tenant of East Mains; and Alexander of Bogendollo. His son is John, minister of Ettrick, now retired and residing in Edinburgh.

The Duries are now all gone from the parish. They were the hereditary dempsters or doomsters of the lords of Edzell. They had a free grant of the lands of Durayhill, and designed themselves *of that Ilk*. In later times Thomas Durie was tenant of Capo, and his son Charles farmed Capo and Dalladies, and died in 1862. He was long an auctioneer and land valuator, as remarkable for integrity of character as for great good-humour. His eldest son Charles, who succeeded him in the farms and died in 1869, acted as secretary to the Fettercairn Farmers' Club, and was highly esteemed alike for kind-heartedness and general intelligence. A younger brother Alexander was for some time Dean of Guild at Brechin, while carrying on the business of brewer at the North Port, where his maternal ancestors had conducted the same trade for 200 years. The youngest brother John held the farms of Dalladies and Capo till his death in 1877. In the end of

<sup>1</sup>The Broadlands or Boardlands, now part of Mill-of-Kincardine farm, were so named from their supplying in part the royal table.

<sup>2</sup>Their initials may be seen cut in a stone, the base of their sun-dial, carelessly built a few years ago into the wall of an outhouse at Balnakettle.

last century David Durie was tenant of Bogmill, and afterwards of Broombank, Glenbervie. His son James, who died in 1854, and grandson David as before stated, were distillers at Fettercairn. The latter died in March, 1899, at his family residence in Edinburgh. A younger brother James is a civil engineer in America.

The Strachans, claiming descent from the family of Thornton, were very numerous during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and a few, eminent in Church and State, were connected with Fettercairn. All of the name now in the parish are the family at the Post Office.

The Wallaces, descendants of "the Wallace wight," of whom none remain, were also very numerous during the same period, as tenants of lands on Dalladies and Drumhendry. George Wallace in the end of last century was tenant of Harestone, on the brae of Balfour; and his son George, whose wife was Ann Gibb, farmed Midmains and reared a large family. His son Patrick Grant held the farm till 1880 and removed to that of Nether Balgillo, Tannadice. An older son James held a nineteen years' lease of Balbegno, and left in 1884 for a farm in Sussex. His sons are, George, a banker in London; James, in Dundedin; and Robert, a land steward in England.

The Mackies, originally Mackays, a Sutherlandshire clan, settled long ago in the parish; but like others above noticed have all disappeared. A hundred years back John Mackie farmed Westerton of Balfour. His son John was a leading medical practitioner in Brechin; and another son was James, who farmed Thornyhill from 1836 to 1880. Of his sons, David is a retired banker in London; and John, an inventive and successful engineer in Reading. A brother of John Mackie, Westerton, whose name was David, held the farm of Dalally. His son John emigrated to Australia in 1852, and became the father of a prosperous family. Another son, Alexander, a successful merchant in



Montrose, was for a term or two its provost. His son is Alexander Mackie, banker, Montrose.

While so many names of long standing have disappeared, one or two others have flourished—notably that of Smith. Ten or twelve of this name are householders in the parish, and four of these rejoice in the name of John Smith. The oldest tenant farmer as to occupation is John Smith of Balmain. His paternal ancestors were leaseholders in the parish. John Smith, V.S., is descended of a long line of the name in the village.

It is curious to find a name repeating itself after the lapse of two centuries and a half. In the Edinburgh Commisariat of Testamentary Records occurs the name of Alexander Don, chapman, Fettercardine, Mearns, 29th Nov., 1608." He is the only Don ever heard of in Fettercairn, and of him nothing else is known; but the "Man we know" is Alexander Don, now merchant and banker, Fettercairn.

## CHAPTER XXXI.

## EMINENT MEN (OF THE PAST).

FEW parishes can boast like Fettercairn of having had within its borders, at one time or other, so many men eminent in Church and State; particularly, men who played their part in the councils of the nation.<sup>1</sup> The last, and presumably the greatest of the number, was the Right Honourable William Ewart Gladstone, who, for many years when a young and rising statesman, had his paternal home at Fasque. The distinguished career of the "Grand Old Man" is so well known that any account however brief would be out of place in these pages. But it may be noticed, that when at Fasque he spent much of his spare time in visiting the poor and the aged on his father's estates. In later years, the old people of the parish held him in grateful remembrance. The late Rev. Dr. M'Cosh of Princeton University, formerly of Brechin, states in the memoirs of his own life, that one day on the Fettercairn road he saw for the first time the future Prime Minister. He says: "I passed on the road a scholarly looking gentleman, evidently not belonging to the district, walking thoughtfully along the public road. At the first farmhouse I came to, I asked who this gentleman could be. 'O,'

<sup>1</sup> Andrew Wood, Sir John Ramsay, Bishop Forbes, John Earl Middleton, Sir James Carnegie, Lord Adam Gordon, and others noticed in the chapters on landowners.

said they, 'this is Sir John Gladstone's clever son.' The people of the place had already discovered his ability."

The following brief and somewhat imperfect record of natives and residents in the parish is confined to members of the learned professions, or to those that have had a college or university education. Many more however, highly successful as business men, might be included, but space forbids. Taking the list in the order of time, the first is :

Andrew Ramsay, A.M., a famous Latin scholar, born in 1574. He was a son of Sir David Ramsay of Balmain and his wife Catherine Carnegie. He probably had his degree from the Marischal College and University of Aberdeen. He became Professor of Divinity in the University of Saumur; was minister of Arbuthnott from 1606 to 1614, and a member of the Assemblies of 1608 and 1610; was translated to Greyfriars Church, Edinburgh, and afterwards to St. Giles. Rector of the University in 1646-7. Deposed in 1649 for maintaining the lawfulness of the expedition into England. This sentence was recalled in 1655; after which he retired to Abbotshall, where he died in 1659, aged 85. He dedicated his *Poemata Sacra*, published in 1633, to his "illustrious and noble" cousin, Lord Carnegie. The dedicatory address is in the form of a Latin poem, and only a translation of the part which is of local interest need here be given, thus:—

"The warlike spirits of your ancestors and their martial hearts are shown by the fact that the Castle of Carnia<sup>1</sup> was given to their keeping. Carnia, which derives its name from the name of a king,<sup>2</sup> was the castle in former

<sup>1</sup> Kincardine Castle, of which an early progenitor of the Carnegies was constable or state-officer.

<sup>2</sup> To wit, *King Carnia*—quite as fanciful a meaning of Kincardine as *Mount of Roses* is of Montrose. Kincardine means *end of the high ground*.



times defended by its position and girt with a fosse and a (wall of) stone, with lofty buildings rising to heaven ; now only fragments of an ancient wall are to be seen—places which are laved by the river Ferderius,<sup>1</sup> gently flowing, clear, with crystal wave, ruler of a sparkling water, winding its way in sinuous folds through the pasture lands. Once on a time a king's consort bathed in this stream with her troop of maidens, and washed her linen cloths in the river, and is said to have wrung them with her own proud hands. Next to this is the *Foisdean* territory. The word indicates (implies) the fields of the enemy ;<sup>2</sup> these your ancestors held under their sway, having subdued the hostile bands far and wide in war. And not only in the lands of the Mearns was your valour conspicuous, but *Forfar*, the capital of Angus, did homage to you, at the summit of affairs, ruling the royal castle with its towered citadels and battlemented walls," &c.

Alexander Peter or Peters, son of Robert Peter, Bogen-dollo, entered Marischal College in 1768 ; was ordained as assistant minister of Arbuthnott in 1783, and presented to the parish of Logie Pert in 1786. He had the degree of D.D. from the University of St. Andrews in 1809, and in the same year was translated to the Cross Church, now St. John's, Dundee. He died there in 1836. His publications were "Sermons," "Account of Logie Pert" and of Dundee in part, respectively to the Old and the New Statistical Accounts of Scotland.

The Very Rev. Edward Bannerman Ramsay, fourth son of Sir Alexander Ramsay and Elizabeth Bannerman, was born at Fasque in January, 1793. A graduate of St. John's College, Cambridge, he took orders in the Church of England, and served for a few years as curate. He became

<sup>1</sup>The Ferdur Burn, erroneously called Ferdun by modern writers. *Dour* is water, as in Douro, Dover, Aberdour, the Dourie, &c.

<sup>2</sup>Phesdo means, enemy or no enemy, *The flat pasture land*.

incumbent successively of St. George's Episcopal Chapel, St. Paul's, and St. John's in Edinburgh. In 1846 he became Dean of Edinburgh. He died in 1872. A handsome memorial of him, in the shape of a tall granite cross, stands near St. John's Church, at the west end of Princes Street. Of his many publications, the most popular is his "Reminiscences of Scottish Life and Character." As an earnest and devoted minister, a cultured and gentlemanly scholar, with a keen sense of his country's humour, he had few equals. "'Broad' enough," says a writer, "for Dean Stanley's friendship, Ramsay was 'High' enough to appreciate Bishop Wordsworth, and yet so evangelical that Chalmers found in him one of his most appreciative biographers."

James Foote, eldest son of the Rev. Robert Foote, was born at the Manse of Fettercairn in 1781, graduated at Marischal College in 1798, was ordained minister of Logie Pert in 1809, and translated to the East Church, Aberdeen, in 1824. His brother (youngest of the family), Alex. Leith Ross, was born in 1803, and graduated in 1821. He became minister at Brechin in 1835, and died in 1878. Both joined the Free Church, and having written works on theological subjects, had the degree of D.D. conferred upon them.

Edward Bannerman Sheriffs, M.D., F.R.C.S., named after Dean Ramsay, was the son of George Sheriffs, Fasque, and graduated at Marischal College in 1829. He began practice in Fettercairn, which he left for Brechin, where in 1832 he published "Remarks on Cholera Morbus"; and afterwards, when in Edinburgh, "Osteology of the human ear, illustrated by casts." He moved to London and latterly to Aberdeen, where he died in 1846, aged 39. At these two places he lectured upon Anatomy and Physiology. In London he kept a carriage, and also a bagpiper fully dressed in "the garb of old Gaul."

John Lindsay Stewart, son of James Stewart, farmer, Dalladies, was born there in 1831. He attended the University of Glasgow, graduated M.D. at Edinburgh in 1856, and entered the Indian Medical Service as fifth in a list of 42 candidates. In the capacity of Assistant Surgeon he was present at the siege and capture of Delhi. After accompanying subsequent expeditions, he officiated as superintendent of a Government botanic garden in the north-west provinces, and of the Tea plantations in upper India. In 1864 he was selected to arrange a system of forest conservancy in the Punjaub, and his work lives in the large and flourishing timber plantations laid down by him in that country. He came back in 1869 to England on furlough, and prepared at Kew a *Forest Flora* of northern and central India. After his return to India in 1872 his health gave way, and he moved from Lahore to the hill station of Dalhousie, Punjaub, where he died of paralysis in July, 1873, in the forty-third year of his age. He made extensive collections of plants, not only in the north-west provinces and the Punjaub, but in Sindh, Kashmir and the inner valleys of the Himalaya bordering on Turkestan and Tibet, and contributed the results of his work to various scientific journals. He became a prominent member of a few learned societies, and was regarded as one of the ablest botanists that India has known.



## CHAPTER XXXII.

## EMINENT MEN (OF THE PRESENT).

THE Rev. Alexander Roberts, D.D., Professor of Humanity in the University of St. Andrews, received a part of his early education in the parish, at Old Mains of Fasque, under Mr Durward. He entered King's College in 1843, as first bursar (£30) over 108 competitors; graduated M.A. in 1847 and gained the Simpson Greek Prize of £70. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Brechin in 1851, ordained F.C. minister of Stonehaven in 1852, called to St. John's Wood, London, in 1857, had D.D. from Edinburgh University in 1864, and was appointed to the Chair of Humanity at St. Andrews in 1871. In 1870 he was elected a member of the New Testament Revision Company. He is the author of various works, of which the chief is "Greek, the language of Christ and His Apostles."

The Rev. John Falconer, emeritus minister of Ettrick, son of the late Alexander Falconer, Bogendollo, was born 20th July, 1831; attended Fettercairn Parish School; entered the Glasgow High School in 1848, and Glasgow University in 1849. He studied divinity at St. Andrews. Licensed by the Presbytery of Fordoun in 1857, he was soon after appointed to the mission church of Ardentinn, Lochlong. In 1859 he was elected to the Parish Church of North Esk, Musselburgh, and in 1864 was translated to

the church and parish of Ettrick. After a ministry of thirty-seven years he retired, and now resides in Edinburgh.

Alexander Whyte, younger son of the late Rev. Alexander Whyte, was born at the manse of Fettercairn on 5th March, 1834. He attended the Parish School under the Rev. James Low, and thereafter the Arts classes at Marischal College, devoting himself to the study of Botany and Natural History. After a few years he proceeded to Ceylon and settled in business at Colombo, where by long experience he qualified himself for preferment. He was elected a Fellow of the Zoological and the Linnæan Societies. In 1891 he received the appointment of Naturalist at the headquarters of the British Central African Administration at Zomba, and senior officer under the Chief Commissioner, Mr H. H. Johnston, C.B. Returning to England in 1897 he brought home an immense collection of specimens, and was presented with the Zoological Society's medal in recognition of his valuable services. He is said to have discovered about 500 new species of animals and plants in Africa. He returned in July, 1898, to undertake in Uganda the establishment of experimental gardens, and to aid in developing the resources of that country.

David Hall, A.M., advocate, Sheriff-Substitute of Ayrshire at Kilmarnock, son of the late James Hall, merchant, Fettercairn, was born there in 1836. He attended the Parish School and the Montrose Academy, and obtained medals for Latin, Greek and Mathematics. He proceeded, in 1851, to Edinburgh University, where he carried off medals and other prizes in the senior Humanity and Moral Philosophy classes. He studied law at the Universities of Berlin and Heidelberg, as well as at Edinburgh. In 1859 he was chairman of the committee of students who carried Mr Gladstone's election as first Lord Rector, and after the inaugural address was appointed by the Senatus to present

him to the Vice-Chancellor. He was called to the bar in 1860, and appointed Sheriff in 1883.

Alexander Cameron, Headmaster of Monikie Public School, was born at Glenlyon in 1836, and removed to Fettercairn in 1852; became pupil teacher in the Parish School, and entered the Edinburgh Training College in 1857. He was appointed to Fisherrow School, Musselburgh, in 1860, to the Parish School of Fern, Brechin, in 1865, and to Monikie School in 1874.

Hugh Knox, headmaster of the Public (late Parochial) School of Buittle, Castle Douglas, was born at Shettleston in 1842, removed with his parents to Fettercairn, attended the Parish School, served as pupil teacher, entered the Edinburgh Training College in 1860, and after finishing a successful course and gaining a high certificate was appointed to his present charge.

William Cramond, A.M., LL.D., F.S.A. (Scot.), Cullen, was born at Fettercairn in 1844. His education began at Lady Harriet Forbes's School, but on removing to Auchinblae he attended the Parish School of Fordoun. He became pupil teacher in the Sessional School, Montrose, 1857-61, and mainly by private study and assistance from the Rev. A. Ritchie, now of Methlick, gained a good bursary at Aberdeen University, gained prizes in Classics, Mathematics, Natural History, &c., and graduated with first-class honours in Classics. He passed for a teacher's First Class Certificate, and was appointed Parochial schoolmaster of Lumphanan, 1868-71, and thereafter of Cullen. He received the degree of LL.D. in 1890 from the University of Aberdeen. He is the author of "The Annals of Banff," in two vols., for the New Spalding Club; "Annals of Cullen"; "Church and Churchyards of Cullen, Boyndie, Deskford, Rathven, Speymouth, and Fordyce"; "Plundering of Cullen House"; "Charters of Banff and Cullen"; "The Bede House of Rathven"; "Illegitimacy in Banffshire";



“The Milnes of Banff”; “The Castle of Balveny”; “The Annals of Fordoun,” &c. He was presented in 1892 with the freedom of Banff in recognition of his eminent attainments as an antiquary.

The Rev. Thomas Nicol, D.D., Edinburgh, was born at Castleton of Kincardine in 1846. After attendance at Fettercairn Parish School, he became pupil teacher in White’s School, Montrose. Almost entirely by private study he gained the fourth bursary (204 competitors) at the University of Aberdeen, 1864, and became first prizeman in Greek and Christian Evidences, and took a high place in Latin, Logic, and Moral Philosophy. He graduated M.A., 1868, with First Class Honours in Classics and in Moral Philosophy, and carried off the Simpson Greek Prize of £70, the Hutton Prize of £30, and obtained in the same year the Fullerton Scholarships for Classics and Philosophy. He studied divinity one session at Aberdeen, and afterwards at Edinburgh, with special distinction in Biblical Criticism, and graduated B.D. in 1871. After studying at Tübingen University he was licensed by the Presbytery of Fordoun, assisted in St. Stephen’s, Edinburgh, was ordained minister of Kells, 1873, and translated to Tolbooth Parish, Edinburgh, in 1879. He acted as Examiner in Theology, and occasional substitute for the professor of Biblical Criticism in the University, from which he has had the degree of D.D. for his scholarship and eminence in the Church. He is author of “Recent Explorations in Bible lands,” which has circulated largely in Great Britain and America, and his lectures on “Recent Archæology of the Bible” are now published. He was Croall lecturer for 1897–98; and since 1886, Editor of the Church of Scotland “Home and Foreign Missionary Record.”

George Harris, headmaster of Chapel School, Kirkcaldy, was born at Auchinblae in 1849. He removed with his parents to Fettercairn, attended the Free Church School,

and acted as pupil teacher from 1864 to 1867. After an attendance for two sessions at the Edinburgh Free Church Training College, he was appointed to his present situation in 1869.

The Rev. Charles Durward, D.D., minister of Scoonie, was born at Keith in 1850, and having, in 1859, removed with his parents to Fettercairn, attended the Parish School, and afterwards the Grammar School of Aberdeen. He entered the University of St. Andrews in 1867; graduated M.A. in 1871, and B.D. in 1874. He was licensed by the Presbytery of St. Andrews, ordained to the South Church, Greenock, in 1875, and translated to Scoonie in 1881. In recognition of his scholarship and of his services to the Church, he received the degree of D.D. in 1899 from the University of St. Andrews.

The Rev. Alexander Murray Scott, A.M., minister of Commerce Street Free Church, Aberdeen, was born at Oldmains of Fasque in 1854. He attended the Free Church School of Fettercairn, and served as pupil teacher from 1867 to 1871. He graduated M.A. at Aberdeen University in 1875, was licensed in 1879, and ordained to his present charge in 1881. He was, for the term of 1894-7, a member of the Aberdeen School Board.

The Rev. John Fawns Cameron, minister of Blairingone, was born at the schoolhouse of Fettercairn in 1855. After attending the Parish School and the Aberdeen Grammar School he entered the University of St. Andrews. In 1880 he was licensed by the Presbytery of St. Andrews. Having served as missionary at Boarhills under the late Dr. A. K. H. Boyd of St. Andrews, and thereafter as assistant at Largo under the late Dr. Davidson, and at Crieff under the late Principal Cunningham, he was ordained to his present charge in 1885.

Robert Milne Murray, M.D., son of the late Alexander Murray, teacher, was born at Fettercairn in 1855. He

received his early education from his father, and entered the University of St. Andrews in 1871, graduated M.A. in 1875, proceeded to the University of Edinburgh and took the degree of M.B. in 1879. He holds the position of Lecturer on Midwifery and the Diseases of Women in the School of Medicine of the Royal Colleges; and also the appointment of Medical Electrician to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Dr. Murray has written a large number of papers on Medical and Scientific Subjects, and is the author of a work entitled "Chemical Notes and Equations," and also of a Text-book of Midwifery.

David Prain, M.D., was born at Fettercairn on 11th July, 1857, and after attending the Parish School he entered the Aberdeen Grammar School in 1872, and the University of Aberdeen in 1873. He graduated M.A. in 1878, with Honours in Natural Science; and in the same year acted as assistant to the Professor of Botany and to the Curator of the Natural History Museum. Having fulfilled an engagement as Master in Ramsgate College, he returned in 1880 and attended the medical classes at Aberdeen for two years, and the same at Edinburgh for one year, graduating M.B. and C.M. with the highest Academical Honours at Aberdeen, and L.R.C.P. at Edinburgh. For the session of 1882-3 he was Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh; and for that of 1883-4, the same in the University of Aberdeen. By a competitive trial in October, 1884, for the Indian Medical Service, he gained the highest place, and was posted to the Bengal Presidency, where he served for two years on its north-eastern frontier. In 1887 he was appointed Curator of the Herbarium in the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta; and in 1898 succeeded Sir George King as Superintendent of the same and of the Cinchona cultivation in Bengal, as well as director of the Botanical Survey of India. He holds since 1895 the Professorship of Botany in the



Calcutta Medical College, and is a Fellow of several learned societies, the Royal and the Botanical Societies of Edinburgh, the Linnæan Society of London, and the Société Botanique de France. He published in 1894 an elaborate series of Papers detailing the Flora old and new of north-eastern India, and likewise of the Laccadive and the Andaman Islands.

The Rev. Alexander Middleton, A.M., B.D., minister of St. Margaret's Church and Parish, Arbroath, was born in the parish of Birse, and removed to Fettercairn in 1863, when his father, the late Hugh Middleton, entered upon the farm of Balnakettle. He received his early education at the Parish School and the Grammar School of Aberdeen, entered the University of that city in 1876, and graduated with distinction in 1880. After attending the Divinity Classes for a year in Aberdeen, and thereafter in Edinburgh, he obtained the degree of B.D., received license in 1884 from the Presbytery of Fordoun, and was appointed Assistant to the Rev. Dr. Marshall Lang, in the Barony Church, Glasgow. In 1892 he was ordained to his present charge.

George Robb, A.M., was born in Fettercairn village in 1863, and educated at the Parish School. He became a junior assistant in the Grammar School of Aberdeen, and entered the University in 1882. He graduated in 1886, and shortly after was appointed to the situation which he now holds, as Rector of the Academy of Rosario Santa Fé, Buenos Ayres.

George R. Croll, A.M., a native of the parish, had his early education at Inch School under Mr Murray, the Brechin High School, and the Grammar School of Old Aberdeen. He entered the University of St. Andrews in 1882, and graduated in 1887. He acted for a few years as Classical Master in Kelvinside Academy, Glasgow, and in 1897 was appointed Headmaster of the Royal Grammar School of Dunkeld.

George Harper, A.M., was born at Canterland, Marykirk, in 1866. He removed with his parents to Fettercairn, attended the Parish School, and served as pupil teacher for three years (1880-3). After a session at the Grammar School of Old Aberdeen he entered the University of St. Andrews as first bursar, in 1884, and graduated with Honours in 1890. He was appointed in 1895 to his present situation as Headmaster of Slains Public School, Aberdeenshire.

William Abernethy, A.M., teacher, Coupar Angus, was born at Bogmuir on 1st July, 1873, attended the Parish School and the Montrose Academy, and served as pupil teacher in Fettercairn Public School from 1889 to 1892. He entered the Glasgow Established Training College in 1893 and the Glasgow University in 1895. After graduation in 1898, he was appointed to his present situation.

## CHAPTER XXXIII.

## ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

IN 1532, as before stated, the town of Kincardine became the capital of the county; and the courts were held there till 1607. But from the want of proper accommodation and the incursions of Highland raiders, an Act of Parliament provided that “the haill lieges within the schire should compeir to perseu and defend in their courtis at Stanehyve in all tyme heirefter.” Till 1767, the seat of the court at Stonehaven was a storehouse belonging to the Earl Marischal. The proceedings of the first ninety years are not recorded. Quoting from the “Black-book of Kincardineshire,” the second case on record was one from Fettercairn concerning the Sunday morning rioters, noticed in Chapter VI. It is thus reported:—

“1698, 17 March.

“William Clark at Nether Mill of Balmain, Isobel Dunbar his spouse, Jane Clark their daughter, John Bruce, James Aikenhead, Elspet Hampton, and Isobel Walker their servants; Janet Baine at the said mill, Thomas Greig her son; David Croll in Fettercairn, Elspet Clerk his spouse, Euphemia Croll their daughter; Alexander Scott in Harvistoun-muir, Euphemia Clark his spouse, Margaret Cook, and Janet Gentleman their servants; and Mr David Clark, incumbent at the Kirk of Fettercairn, summoned to answer for their unchristian, illegal, and masterful troubling and molesting Mr Francis Melvill, minister at Arbuthnott, upon the 13th February last, in the kirkyard of Fettercairn, being the Sabbath day, when he was bussied about divine service and declaring the



said Kirk of Fettercairn vacant. And putting violent hands on the said Mr Francis, beating and blooding him with stones, rending his clothes, and keeping up by themselves and others in their names, and of their causing commanding and ratihabition of the keys of the said kirk door, and committing wicked insolencies by word and deed in proud and manifest contempt of the Laws of the Kingdom made in the conterar. The saids Isobel Dunbar, Jane Clark, John Bruce, James Aikenhead, Elspet Hampton, Isobel Walker, Janet Baine, Thomas Greig, Elspet Clerk, Euphan Croll, Euphan Clark, Margaret Cook, and Janet Gentleman not compearing were amertiate *in penam contumatiæ*, ilk one of them in the sum of ten pounds Scots; and also the said Elspet Hampton, Isobel Walker, Janet Baine, Thomas Greig, Margaret Cook, and Janet Gentleman, being again summoned and not compearing were declared fugitives and their goods escheat; and the haill remanent defenders also being again summoned, and deponing in the said matter, by virtue of the Sheriff's Interlocutor, and the matter being continued to this day the sheriff absolved the said William Clark, Isobel Dunbar, Jane Clark, John Bruce, James Aikenhead, David Croll, Elizabeth Clark, Euphan Croll, and Alexander Scott, from the crime libelled of putting violent hands upon the said Francis Melvill, on the said Sabbath day, or their troubling or molesting him or hounding out any person against him; and also he amertiated and fined the said William Clark and Alexander Scott, ilk one of them, in the sum of fifty pounds Scots money for harbouring and resetting the persons afternamed, after they had committed the foresaid riot; and ordained the said William Clark with all diligence to apprehend and bring before the sheriff the said Elspet Hampton and Isobel Walker his servants, Janet Baine his subtenant and her son; and ordained the said Alexander Scott to apprehend and bring to him the said Margaret Cook and Janet Gentleman his servants, under the pain of fifty pounds for each of them. The sheriff likewise absolved the said Mr David Clark from troubling and molesting the said Mr Melvill in manner libelled, and yet, nevertheless, amertiated and fined him and the said William Clark, and his father for his interest, he being in family with him, in the sum of fifty pounds Scots, for keeping up the keys of the said kirk door."

The same year on April 7th, Margaret Thow in Knowgreens was summoned "to underly the law, for

spoiling, robbing and away-taking a pirn, and breaking a lint wheel belonging to Isobel Carnegie, in Balmanno. Failed to appear, and was declared fugitive."

Two cases of theft more directly connected with the parish are the following :

"1698, July 8. John Cowie in Faskie, summoned to underly the law for stealing, cutting, and away-taking, under cloud of night, several young trees out of the plantation of Faskie, belonging to the Laird of Balmain; And for stealing a certain quantity of bear belonging to the Laird of Thornton. Failed to appear—was declared fugitive, and all his movable goods declared to be escheat."

"1699, 6 February. Katherine Hampton, late servitor to George Austine (Craigmoston), and William Hampton, her little brother, apprehended . . . imprisoned, and confessed that on 27th January William Hampton went in at a window of Lady Urie's house in the night time, did steal away a burden of clothes, napery and sheets, two tailzies of beef, stuff petticoat and gown, and other things—all which her brother gave her out. And that upon the 4th day of January they did steal articles of clothing from William Shepherd's house in Findon; and fowls from the same house, which they carried and sold in Aberdeen. She declared that she served David Milne in Fettercairn last winter, and William Moris in Balmain—and that before that she served David Austin, and kept his child. . . . The Sheriff appointed the boy to return to school, dismissed him in respect of his tender age, and his promising never to do the like again; And ordained the said Katherine Hampton to be scourged through the town, burnt on the shoulder, and to stand in the jouns ane hour."

The cases that follow are those of ordinary theft, for which, at the time, capital punishment was inflicted. On 28th March, 1699, William Edmonstone, "sometime in Faskie, in Bogmuir of Eslie in the Parish of Fettercairn," and his sons, William, Thomas and Robert, "prisoners in the Tolbooth and thief's hole of Stonehaven," were indicted for a series of thefts committed by breaking overnight into houses up and down over the Mearns. One of these was at Balmakewan, where "they carried off meal,

butter and cheese, hiding themselves in the kiln, some amongst the cabers, and some below in the bottom." Another, by opening with a pass key the "house-door of Isobel Croll, at Greenboden, and taking out plaids, clothes and meal." Other counts were of similar thefts: by breaking holes for the younger culprits to enter into the victual houses of Alexander Cowie at the Mill of Halkerton, and of David Melville at Pitgarvie; and at the latter place, by breaking the strong locks of the girnals and carrying off "pockfuls of meal, cheese, and a quantity of salt butter, out of the kits standing in the said girnals." The most serious case against William Edmonstone was, that he on his own account went "under the cloud and silence of night to a cot on the Blackburnside, betwixt Rosehill and Inglismawdie, and did steal and away-take two wedders and two ewes at sundry times," whose remains were found in his house at Eslie by Archibald Falconer, macer and daccarer (searcher), Fettercairn. The find consisted of "four mutton bulks, two loaves of grease, and a pockful of wool, with four or five sheeps' heads, and a considerable number of singed sheeps' feet, all which, and several other plenishing, the deponent (Falconer) as Sheriff's-mare carried to his own house." These goods were dealt with by "John Leyes, Balmanie's officer, William Clark in Nethermill, and Alexander Scott in Harestonemuir." William Edmonstone was likewise accused of another theft of sheep, and of taking them to the house of William Carnegie in Bentienook of Craigmoston, where they were killed and eaten.

At the trial, John Irone deponed that he was in Coldstream, "two or three rigg lengths from Bentienook, and that he had occasion to come to William Carnegie's house upon yool-day, about breakfast time, and that he saw Carnegie himself have in his hand a hot sheep's haggis, which had been taken presently out of the pot," and this evidence was held as proof against Edmonstone. Two of



the fifteen "Assizers" were John Christie in Thenstone, and Andrew Watt in Bogmill.

"The 'Assyse' through their Chancellor, all in one voice, finds William Edmonstone guilty of theft, both by his own confession, and probatine led agt him. The Sheriff-Depute, by the mouth of John Frayser, dempster of court, decerns the said William Edmonstone to be taken to the Gallowhill upon Monday next, the 3rd April instant, betwixt the hours of ane and four in the afternoon, and there to be hanged on a gibbet till he be dead, and all his moveable goods to be escheat, which is pronounced for doom."

A woman, Agnes Muffat, for similar crimes in Fetteresso, was convicted by the same "Assyse," and hanged on the same gallows. "The Sheriff-Depute appointed their bodies to be buried at the Gallows-foot after they are dead."

In the same year, 1700, John Erskine in Braeside of Balfour, broke overnight into the house of Robert Allan, his neighbour, and stole a quantity of meal and other goods, "which he did hide in a peat stack in the moss of Arnhall, and which were there found hid by the daccarers; for which theft he was declared a fugitive and outlaw." When apprehended and brought to trial, for that and a few other like offences, he was convicted and sentenced to be hanged at the Gallowhill, and his body buried at the foot of the gallows. Three of the "Assizers" were, George Austin in Craigmoston, John Brown in Dalladies, and John Kinloch in Drumhendry. The last named was Chancellor. At the same time two persons, Alexander Matheson and Christian Welsh his spouse, were tried and convicted of resetting the goods stolen by John Erskine.

"They were sentenced to be scourged through the town of Stonehaven by the hands of the common hangman; and thereafter to be brought back to prison, to be carried fettered by the arms, in company with John Erskine, condemned thief, to the Gallowhill, and there to stay till he be executed, and thereafter to be kicked with the foot of the common hangman; and banishes them this shire thereafter for ever, never to be seen therein under the pain of death."

The story of Randal Courtney's burglary and execution at Fettercairn in 1743 has been already given; but why the sentence was effected at Fettercairn instead of Stonehaven is not recorded.

In 1747 a John Low, at Easthill of Johnstone, stole four oxen and a quey from Andrew Glen in East Mains of Balfour, and to escape punishment offered to give back a certain number of his own cattle. Glen did not accept his offer, whereupon Low agreed to pay one hundred pounds Scots, on condition that the theft should not be reported. This promise failed, and he petitioned the Sheriff to let him off to America, never to return, on the ground that he was "a poor weak creature." The prayer of the petition was granted.

During the first half of the eighteenth century many minor offences and petty thefts were brought before the Baron Court, presided over by Sir Alexander Ramsay. A greater number, however, were taken up and disposed of by the Kirk Session. Cases of slandering and fighting, as well as of Sabbath breaking, came up for settlement; and the offenders had to appear and stand in sackcloth, on one or more Sundays, before the congregation.

For instance, in 1731, "Isobel Ross slandered David Low, servant to Mr Fullerton, weaver, in town of Fettercairn; that he had taken peats from his mother's house to John Tailziour's house," for which she was punished. And in 1741, John Watt in Steelstrath complained that Alexander Straton in Bogside had, in William Wallace's smithy at Hilton of Dalladies, charged him with stealing a boll of malt from the kiln of Robert Wood in Capo, and that to keep silence, he was to give the latter a boll of bear and a boll of oats. The Kirk Session took up the case, heard the parties, and found Straton guilty. They ordered the deliverance to be read from the latron to the congregation the next Lord's day, to discourage backbiting and slandering among the people.

In later times the county policemen became guardians of the peace. Fettercairn had its officer; and early in the forties, a house and the lockup, now disused, were erected. The juveniles of the village regarded the place with feelings akin to awe, and were inspired with wholesome terror at the idea of being caught by Archie Milne and shut up in the darkness of his jail.

In 1881 a murder was committed in the parish by Charles Dinnie, for which he was tried before the Circuit Court at Aberdeen and convicted; but on the plea of insanity, his sentence was restricted to confinement for life, or during Her Majesty's pleasure. For obvious reasons the details need not be given.



## CHAPTER XXXIV.

PAROCHIAL REGISTERS, BEQUESTS, AND  
SAVINGS BANKS.

PAROCHIAL REGISTERS. It has been said that divines, lawyers and archæologists are the only people who regard the musty records of the past with a business-like and professional interest. But all who take any interest in the history of their country, and specially in that of their own locality, must feel doubly interested in the time-worn books that record the names and deeds of those who fulfilled their life-work in former generations. And from these documents much of the simple life led by “the rude forefathers of the hamlet” can be recovered.

The oldest register book of the Kirk Session begins with the induction of Mr Hercules Skinner, in 1669, and ends in 1682. It contains a promiscuous record of baptisms, marriage contracts, church collections, disbursements, and other incidental proceedings, stated in a very brief and cursory manner. There is reason to believe that an earlier record existed. In Sir John Clerk’s *Memoirs* it is stated that, “according to a Kirk Session Record now lost,” Bishop Forbes, minister of Fettercairn, baptized a John Clerk on 22nd December, 1611. This record may have shared the fate of the others, from 1682 to 1720, which were lost in the fire at the schoolhouse in 1747. Those from 1720 to 1747 were partially destroyed. One of the same so far tells the tale. A number of its leaves are half

consumed, and the parts remaining bear evidence of the fire.

The frequent changes of schoolmasters and clerks which took place from 1737 to 1747 account for the various styles of writing upon the portions rescued from the fire. From 1747 down to 1855, when the Registration Act came into operation, the births and baptisms were fairly but not fully recorded in one volume after another, now in the custody of the Registrar-General. Proclamations of Banns were not regularly entered till 1816, when, according to a cash entry, a Register book was procured. Whether this volume was kept, or what became of it, nobody could tell the writer, when in 1852 he became session-clerk. Thus, for the period from 1816 to 1850, no record of proclamations has been preserved. The supposition is, that the volume in question was lent to some Edinburgh lawyers, who in 1851 wanted extracts bearing upon the famous Morgan succession case, and that inadvertently it was never returned.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John Morgan, of Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, son of Thomas Morgan, Brewer, Dundee, having amassed a fortune in India, was, for his later years, under a Curator bonis, and died in 1850, leaving money and property to the value of £100,000.

Two brothers, Alexander and James Morgan, natives of Fettercairn, came forward claiming heirship, on the ground that they were cousins-german of the deceased, and against other claimants alleging a kinship more remote. After a protracted trial in the Court of Session, a verdict of *not proven* was given against all the claimants, and the funds, according to an alternative wish of the deceased, were set apart to found an institution—the Morgan Hospital, in Dundee. Although the principal claimants in the lawsuits appeared under the names of Alexander and James Morgan, their claims were really prosecuted by and at the expense of a firm of solicitors in Sydney, Cape Breton, to whom their prospects had been assigned in return for a yearly annuity of £100 to each of the brothers, and of £60 per annum to each of their wives after them. As the Court of Session rejected all the claims, the speculative Sydney solicitors had not only the cost of their suit to pay, but also, for a considerable time, the annuities of the two brothers; and they continued, till a very recent date, to pay the annuity to a surviving widow, until her death put an end to their rather unsuccessful speculation.

A register of births, from 1843 to 1855, was kept by the Free Church Session, and then handed over to the writer as Registrar to be delivered to the Registrar-General under the provisions of the new Registration Act. During the year 1855 the writer, in compliance with the Act, recorded about 400 entries of births which had in previous years been neglected.

No register of deaths had ever been kept, other than a record of mort-cloth and tombstone charges among other entries in the cash books of the Kirk Session.

The following entries, amongst others in the older books, may be quoted, and Scots moneys stated in sterling value.

In 1678 "George Allan and William Coupar were delated for drinking and fighting on Sabbath." Rebuked twice before the Congregation. "Collected 30/ for two merchants of Montrose taken prisoners by the Turks. Given 6d. to two Glasgow 'broken' merchants suppliants. Given 1/ to George Blacklaw in Bruntiesland (uplands of Dalally) burnt with fire."

In 1680 "Isabel Mill and Margaret Walker delated for shearing on the evening of the Lord's day." Rebuked before the congregation on three successive Sabbaths. "Two men in Fordoun parish delated for cursing and swearing." "1723. Given to Wm. Clark for mending Wm. Smith's cloaths, 1d." "1729. The minister intimated that no sturdy beggars or vagabonds be relieved or harboured during the sacrament week, so that their alms be kept for their own poor."

"1731. For conveying and convoying a woman with a young child throw the mounth, lest she leave it in the parish, 8d."

"For leather and tacketts to mend the lid of the girnall,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and for mending the meal brods (weighing boards), 2d. (Scots)."

"1736. For a candle to Margt. Milne before and after her death, 1d."

"1741. To John Crocket for sugar and salt got to Janet Bruce, 1d."

"For carrying the foresaid woman to Brechin, 10d. For a horse to carry the woman to Fordoun, 4d. To carrying a madman to Fordoun, 6d."

"1758. To Alexr. Blenchart for taking care of Jean Glen deprived of her judgment, 7/." "For a coffin to Isobel Clerk, dead, 3/4."



BEQUESTS. Of the benefactors to the poor of the parish, the earliest on record is that of James Black, who, as before stated, died in 1750, and left to the Kirk Session 200 merks for the poor, and 50 merks to uphold the Gannochy Bridge. The next is that by Alexander Christie, Provost of Montrose, who died in 1791 and left £50, of which the interest was to be distributed annually in January, and preferably to persons of the name of Christie. "He bestowed the gift in memory of his father, Provost Thomas Christie,<sup>1</sup> who was born in the parish of Fettercairn."

Sir Alexander Ramsay Irvine died in 1806, and bequeathed to the Kirk Session the sum of £450, to be managed at sight of, and with the approval of, the proprietor of Balmain; the interest to be divided among the poor. After the passing of the Poor Law, in 1845, the distributions were restricted to those not on the Parochial Roll. The capital sum, together with other funds, were lent to the late William Shand of The Burn, and after his bankruptcy and death, in 1834, they were reduced to a small amount. His representatives, to a considerable extent by voluntary contributions, made up the fund to nearly one half its original amount.

Early in the century Robert Valentine, tenant, Bogendollo, left £50; and Anthony Glen, manufacturer, Luthermuir, £20; and these sums were distributed among the poor of the parish, in compliance with the will of the donors.

George Cooper, merchant, Slateford (Edzell), died in 1831; and among legacies for Educational and other purposes to Edzell, left £20 for the poor to the Kirk Session of Fettercairn, and £20 for immediate distribution among the poor in the Arnhall district of the parish.

<sup>1</sup> He died in 1765, according to his tombstone in the north glebe of Montrose old churchyard. Provost Alexander Christie, along with Mrs Carnegie of Charlton, founded the Montrose Infirmary and the Lunatic Asylum in 1781, the latter being the first of its kind in Scotland.

James Smith, flaxdresser in Fettercairn, died in 1816, leaving a widow. By his will he settled that after her death his property, consisting of money and houses, should be managed by trustees for behoof of indigent persons in the parish and district. In terms of the deed, a succession of trustees has been kept up, to meet every December for the despatch of business, "to dine in the hotel and distribute the proceeds," which now arise from the rents of a tenement at the Burnside of Fettercairn.

Mrs Christina Rew or Callum, Laureneekirk, left, at her death in 1846, to the Parish and Free Church ministers of Fettercairn £50 each, with the annual interest to provide Bibles for the aged poor, and Sunday School requisites for the children in attendance.

A few years ago two brothers, James Johnston, Raw of Balmain, and John Johnston, Gallowhillock, bequeathed £10 each to be distributed among the poor of the parish.

**RAMSAY BURSARIES.** As the sole patronage and right of presentation of these valuable bursaries was bequeathed to Sir Alexander Ramsay, Bart. of Balmain, and to the lairds of Balmain of the name of Ramsay for ever, it is of importance that special notice should be taken of them here. In making choice of a presentee to any vacant bursary, the patrons have all along shown a preference for local candidates; consequently many young men belonging to Fettercairn and its immediate neighbourhood have been enabled to go to college from the fortunate circumstances that the "Lairds of Balmain" have been so closely associated with the parish.

The bursaries now in the patronage of Sir Alexander E. Ramsay are no fewer than seventeen in number: eight Ramsay Bursaries available at St. Andrews University, eight at Aberdeen University, and one Glenfarquhar Bursary, which is available at Aberdeen. It goes without

saying that this extensive patronage has involved the successive Baronets of Balmain in great responsibility of selection and labour of correspondence, a task which has invariably been cheerfully undertaken and carried through with admirable judgment and unfailing kindness and courtesy.

The bursaries at St. Andrews were founded in 1681 by the Rev. John Ramsay, Minister of Markinch, who mortified his lands of Duniface for the maintenance and education of youths at the University of the ancient city by the sea. Their value used to be about £30, but now they are probably not more than from £20 to £25 per annum. They may be held for eight years, provided that the bursar takes the degree of M.A. at the end of his Arts course, and afterwards proceeds to the study of Divinity at St. Mary's College. The balance of the money proceeding from the Endowment is devoted to two Ramsay Scholarships, which are open to competition.

The Ramsay Bursaries, available at Aberdeen, were founded in 1727 by Mr Gilbert Ramsay, Rector of Christ Church, Barbadoes, who bequeathed the sum of £4800 for the education of youths at Aberdeen. In 1802 Sir Alexander Ramsay Irvine gave an additional sum of £1000, by which the endowment was supplemented and the original value of the bursaries increased. Four are available for Divinity, and are of the value of £20, and four for Arts of the value of £24, the additional £4 being derived from an earlier bequest of £400 made in 1714 by Gilbert Ramsay for the benefit of the students belonging to Birse, his native parish.

The Glenfarquhar Arts Bursary, bequeathed by Sir Alexander Falconer in 1717, is of the annual value of sixteen guineas, and is tenable for four years.

SAVINGS BANK. A Parish Savings Bank was established



by the late Sir John S. Forbes and the Rev. Alex. Whyte in 1831, which was among the first of the kind in Scotland. For a number of years down to 1858, when it became a branch of the National Security system, the deposits and withdrawals did not exceed £150 and £100, respectively. They are now five or six times as large, and the amount at the credit of depositors is nearly six thousand pounds.

## CHAPTER XXXV.

## METEOROLOGY, WOODS AND PLANTATIONS.

**M**ETEOROLOGY. The following particulars, not devoid of interest, are culled from a record of weather observations taken daily at Fettercairn during the forty years from 1855 to 1895, and reported every month by the writer to the Scottish Meteorological Society.

The mean or average summer heat for that period is 59 degrees (Fahrenheit), of winter 36, and the annual mean 47. The highest reading of the Thermometer was 84 degrees on 16th July, 1876; and the lowest 3° below zero, or 35 degrees of frost, on the morning of 10th February, 1895. On the 9th it was 0°, and on the 11th 1° below zero, or 33 degrees below the freezing point.

The average number of days on which any rain or snow fell is 177, and the mean depth 33·5 inches. The rainiest day in the forty years was the 12th of June, 1860, with a fall of 3 in.; but the heaviest shower, still remembered, took place from the bursting of a thunder cloud on the hills, between the hours of two and four on the afternoon of the 8th August, 1861. The fall was 2·5 in. The burn overflowed its banks, covered the adjacent fields, and flooded the burnside houses of the village to an alarming extent. The rainiest week was in August, 1874, when on the six days, from the 9th to the 14th, the fall was 4·44 in., or one-seventh of 31 in., that of the whole year.

The rainiest month was December, 1876, with a fall of 10 inches. The wettest year as a whole was 1872, with 218 rainy days, and 57·7 in., of which 9·1 in. fell in February; and on the 22nd of September the hills and higher grounds were covered with snow. The next wettest year was 1877, with 198 rainy days, and a fall of 45·34 in. In only seven of the forty years did the amount exceed 40 inches. In 1864 snow fell and covered the ground on the 29th of May.

The driest year was 1887, with only 153 days on which any rain or snow fell, and the total was only 22·8 inches.

The highest reading of the Barometer, 30·50 in., was taken 30th January, 1895, and the lowest, 27·2, on 26th January, 1884. Of wind storms, one may be mentioned which in February, 1864, blew down a pinnacle of the church spire; another, the Tay Bridge storm, in Dec., 1879, which blew down another, and did much damage all over the country. But the most destructive wind storms were those of the 28th Nov., 1892, and of the 17th Nov., 1893, and more especially the latter, which in sad reality destroyed the woods and plantations of the parish to an extent never before seen. Two causes may be assigned for the greater extent of damage by this storm. First, that it blew from the north, on which side the trees were less firmly rooted than on the south and south-west; and next, that a heavy fall of rain on the previous day had softened and loosened the soil about their roots.

WOODS AND PLANTATIONS. Few parishes in the north-east of Scotland are more highly favoured than Fettercairn in respect of woods and plantations. Traces of ancient woods remain; but at the beginning of the eighteenth century the district was bare and without shelter. The stately trees that adorn the policies of Fettercairn, Fasque,



Balbegno, and The Burn were all planted within the last two hundred years. The majestic beeches and hardwood trees of Fasque were planted, as already noticed, by Sir David Ramsay and his successors, in the early years of last century. Among these may be noticed some ten or twelve of the old beeches behind Fasque House, which were uprooted by the storm of October, 1838, and which, by the enterprise of Sir John Gladstone, were lopped of their top branches, and with block and tackle raised and set up to take root again and renew their growth. In course of a few years they throve and feathered so well that in appearance they looked quite like the other monarchs of the forest. But, alas! they fell again by the storm of 1893; and from the immensely increased size and weight of their trunks and limbs, any attempt to raise them a second time would have proved a failure.

The tall and straight larches, spruces and silver-firs in the Den of Fasque, as well as the adjacent forest of beeches now uprooted and broken, were admired by all. One very large silver-fir near the garden, and in the hollow of the burn (the largest tree in the parish), escaped the fury of the blast. From its trunk, 14 feet in girth and 10 feet in height, spring four immense and straight up limbs, whose tops rise to at least the height of 100 feet. A few of the stately ashes and other hardwood trees in the policies of Fettercairn are very old; but the surrounding forests of different sorts are of later growth, and were planted by Sir John Belsches in the end of last century. The beautiful belt of beeches along the Cairn road was levelled by the storm of 1893. Sir John also planted the valuable fir clump at Gourdon, known as Lady Jane's wood. Many of the old and decaying ash trees about the village are indigenous or self-planted. The soil is so congenial that the young plants spring up every summer like the weeds in the village gardens. The trees around the manse and

glebe were planted by the late Mr Muir, the minister in the second decade of the century.

The beeches and Scotch firs of Balbegno may date from the second decade of last century, when John Ogilvy was proprietor. The beautifully grown Scotch firs of The Burn, below Bonhary, were probably planted by the Forbeses of Balfour at the same period. But the greater part of The Burn woods were planted by Lord Adam Gordon in the end of last century. The laird's advice to his son, "To be aye plantin' a tree," has been diligently followed by the later proprietors, as may be instanced by the extensive plantations along the hillside of Balnakettle and Balfour, made within the last fifty years by the late Sir Thomas Gladstone. In this account some very old trees remain to be noticed. One of the oldest is the Spanish chestnut, on the roadside below Balbegno. Its general appearance and the decay in its branches confirm the belief, supported by tradition, that it ranks in age with the castle, or about 350 years. The yew tree at the castle and the other seven or eight in the garden were no doubt planted there by the first occupiers to supply wood for bows, before firearms were invented. For the same purpose, in old times, yews were planted in churchyards. The largest of the Balbegno yews, two feet up, is 8 ft. in girth. One of the hollies remaining in the garden is also 8 ft. in girth, and four feet up is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  ft. The trunk is 15 ft. in height. Considering these dimensions and the slow growth of holly, this tree must be as old as its neighbours. In the adjoining park there remains part of an overgrown holly hedge, which had probably formed the boundary of a lawn or green. At Balfour may be seen a line of very tall hollies, evidently the overgrowth of a hedge near the site of the old mansion-house. At Fasque House a holly of large dimensions, growing on a mound, displays its beauty; and as a relic of the olden time deserves to be carefully

preserved. The lovely but decaying laburnums in Fettercairn House grounds show that they are at least as old as the south part of the mansion, built by the Earl of Middleton in 1666.

This account may be closed with a notice of two well-known trees, both standing alone, the one in the country and the other in the village. "Peter Robbie's tree," a tall and beautiful birch below Surgeonshall, on the Marykirk road, is now the only mark left of a house and croft occupied eighty-five years ago by Robbie, who had been minister's man for many years to the late Mr Foote, and whose maternal grandson is John Lyall, blacksmith, Balfour. The other in the village is "The Baker's tree," right in front of the baker's shop, or "The Teetotal tree," so called from some reference to the Temperance Hotel, now Kirkhill farmhouse, which it overshadows, as seen in the illustration. It marks the line of the old fence removed for the railing erected by Lord Clinton. Upon its trunk, for many a day, public notices and advertisements have been nailed; so that no saw will ever cut it up with impunity. Hundreds of horse shoe nails, borrowed from the adjoining smithy and driven into its aged trunk, display the warning of the national emblem, "Nemo me impune lacessit."



## CHAPTER XXXVI.

## AGRICULTURE AND OLD CUSTOMS—MARKETS.

A FEW cursory remarks on the state of agriculture, chiefly in the eighteenth century, will not be out of place in these pages. If the state of matters in former times and the improvements which have been effected be duly considered, the people of the present day have reason to be thankful for the change.

The closing years of the seventeenth century were years of dearth and famine, owing to a succession of deficient crops, and at the time of the Union the condition of the country was very low ; and during the years that followed wars and troubles retarded agriculture. Much of the land lay in a state of marsh and waste ; and where we now find fertile and well-tilled fields, there were either barren wastes or bogs and pools in which the cattle stuck when turned out lean and weak at the end of winter. For want of trees and hedgerows to enclose the fields, the general appearance of the country, especially in winter, was wild and dreary. The use of carts and wheeled vehicles was rare in the first half of the century ; and the roads being mere bridle paths, creels and panniers on horseback were the only means of conveyance. Farm implements, rude and clumsy, were all made of wood ; and instead of the

ropes and chains now used, twisted withs and willows did duty.<sup>1</sup>

The wooden plough, a clumsy instrument, with its long beam and short stilt, was dragged by oxen driven by the gaudsman, who poked them with his goad and whistled a certain tune to cheer them up. If horses were yoked, they were led by a man walking backwards. Sometimes the oxen took a stubborn turn, and would neither be driven by the *gaud* nor led by the charms of the whistling, and hence the old proverb, "There's muckle whistlin' for little red lan'"; and from the gaudsman's occasional "sweerness" or inactivity arose the saying, "They're sweer to ca' that let the gaud fa'." If the oxen became unmanageable it was not unusual to blame the witches. One plough served for each "farm toon" or crofter hamlet. The work was badly done, as time did not permit to give the soil more than one turn over. The riggs were gathered to the crown, so that the fields became a series of long, narrow mounds off which the water ran, and this was the only system of drainage in use. Dung was carried out in *currachs* or wicker creels hung across a crook saddle, one on each side of the horse; and "coupin' the creels" became a byword, when the man on one side filled faster than his neighbour on the other and destroyed the balance. Before the introduction of potatoes, turnips and green crops in the end of the century, the heaviest work of spring was the dunging and seeding of the "bear land"; and for it, during a week or two, even the clergyman's daily ministrations were suspended. Grain was carried in sacks across the horses' backs to the mill or the market; the animals on the narrow pathway following each other

<sup>1</sup>The back chain of a cart is still called the *rigwoody*. The tenant of Inch, whose surname was Pressock, was bound in his lease to render a quantity of ropes made from the roots of trees dug from the north moss of Arnhall.

in single file with the halter *tow* of the second horse tied to the tail of the first, and so on to the last, however many in number. The cutting of the crop with the toothed hook was a work that required many hands. When the hooks required sharpening, they were taken to the smithy to be re-punched.

The work of threshing was done on the larger farms by the barn man and his flail; but on the smaller holdings by the men, with candle light in the winter mornings, to provide a daily supply of straw for the cattle. A breezy day was chosen for winnowing the grain, with *wecht* or hand fan between the opposite doors of the barn, which generally stood crosswise to the direction of the prevailing winds. Towards the end of the century fanners were introduced, and the raising of wind by them was regarded as “awfu’ uncanny.” Every mill had its hillock, upon which in favourable weather the shelled grain was winnowed. Before the invention of sifting apparatus, people, generally women, had also to attend and sift at the grinding of their “melder,” or the quantity sent to be ground.

In former times people depended mostly for food on the produce of their own fields; and when bad seasons came round they endured all the miseries of hunger and starvation. In 1681 the crops failed. In the end of June a fast was held in Fettercairn and other parishes “for the scorching drought that threatened the fruits of the ground.” Dearth and famine followed so much in some northern parishes, that it is said half the people perished, and the other half were too weak to bury the dead. The winters of 1715 and 1740 were long and severe. The frost of 1740 continued for five weeks; a cold summer followed and made the crops a failure. The worst year of the century was 1782. The summer was so wet and cold that the corn began to shoot only in the end of August. With a severe frost on the 5th of October, and a heavy snowstorm in the



end of that month, the crops—even such as had got beyond the green stage—were entirely ruined. Very little of the grain was fit for next year's seed. That "snaawy hairst" was long remembered. To relieve the distress, meetings of the county gentlemen were held, and money was collected to bring supplies from England. With aid from Government shiploads of meal and pease were imported, to be sent in quantities and sold or otherwise distributed. For the sake of economy, all idle dogs and other useless animals were destroyed; horses were fed on straw and bruised whins; bear was not malted; and other means were used for the saving of provisions. In the Highlands and Islands, shell-fish, salted snails, nettle-broth, and blood drawn daily from the cattle, eked out the food supply during the summer months.

The Kirk Session of Fettercairn kept a "girnall" to supply doles of meal to the poor, that were more than doubled in number by the prevailing distress. The large number reduced to poverty continued for years to depend upon charity; and for 1800 to 1801, when the crops failed from drought, meal and provisions rose to famine prices, and the list of poor people was more and more increased.

In the early part of last century the farmhouses were wretched hovels, low, damp, and dirty; the people and the cattle were very much alike for accommodation. Where stones were scarce the walls were composed, at least in the upper part, of "feal" (turf), or mud and straw. A long narrow building covered with divots and thatch formed, in the better end, the "ben" (be in) and the "but" (be out) of the family dwelling; and a continuation of the "but" or kitchen, beyond a rough wooden partition, held the cattle; so that even the croonin' or snoring of the beasts could be heard at the fireside, or by "the gudeman in bed ayont the hallan." In front of the house, and only a step or two from the door, stood the dung hole—a deep area—filled with solids in winter and stagnant water in summer,

where pigs and poultry held riot, and into which, after nightfall, people frequently stumbled. When a house, byre or barn required repair or renewal, the neighbours gathered and gave a "love darg" (friendly turn) to complete the work, which, with the help of many hands, was often done in a single day.

Towards the end of the century a new and improved style of houses and farm buildings was introduced. The two-story dwelling-houses, now rather old-fashioned, but substantially built of stone and lime, slated at first with Turin slabs, are still to be seen on several farms of Fasque and Balmain estates, and were mostly erected by Sir Alexander Ramsay Irvine. Even these better houses of a hundred years ago lacked the comfortable furnishings now in use. The first fifteen years of this century passed before any house in the parish, except the proprietors' mansions and the manse, could boast of a carpet.

In the olden times the people lived very much upon oat cakes, barley bannocks, and pease bread. Wheaten bread was used only on very special occasions, such as marriages and funerals. A hundred years ago it was customary with the Fettercairn farmers to attend the Montrose Friday market, and bring home each to his goodwife a small loaf to keep the "aumri" (press), and serve for the week's drams and special treats. Kail-brose, or greens boiled and oatmeal stirred together, formed the supper dish during winter in the farmer's kitchen, and part of the boiled kail was left to be heated for breakfast. And who of the older members of the Fettercairn Farmers' Club can forget "The Kail-brose of Auld Scotland," so gleefully sung at the Club dinners by the late Mr Vallentine of Bogmuir?

A common article of food, hardly ever seen now, was *sowens* or flummery, made from the husks or siftings of the oatmeal at the mill. These were steeped in a vessel among water till the mixture became sour. The thick pulpy part,

separated through a strainer and boiled, made with a supply of milk a very nutritious and wholesome dish.

It may be roughly stated that the rates of farm servants' wages about the middle of last century were only one-sixth of what they are now ; at the end of it, only one-fourth ; and fifty years ago, about one-half of the present amount. To a great extent wages were paid in kind ; sometimes wholly, as in the case of shepherds who received the produce of so many sheep grazed with those of their masters. Married servants were allowed a piece of ground to cultivate in their spare hours. Women servants were paid in part with flax or wool to be spun by them in the winter evenings.

A glimpse of ancient rent items and farming customs may be obtained from the following notes of a new lease, for nineteen years of the farm of Balnakettle, granted in 1768 by Sir Alexander Ramsay Irvine to Robert Falconer the tenant. The money rent was £20 stg. Of the produce, thirty bolls of oatmeal and ten bolls of bear were to be delivered at Montrose ; four dozen hens, but "their value to be deducted from the above money rent, at the rate of five shillings stg. per dozen." The grain of the farm, except bear and seed, must be ground at the mill of Balmain, paying  $\frac{1}{19}$  of the same as mill dues. The minister's and schoolmaster's dues had to be paid ; also those of the ground officer, which were two pecks for each chalders farming." The services required were : To plough, dung and harrow yearly two acres "possest by Arthur Forbes, without fee, except victuals to the servants" ; to cast, win and lead from the hill "a proportion of peat and turf to Fasque, or pay for the same" ; to give one day's work of all his shearers in harvest ; to carry to Fasque 7 bolls of shell lime from Mathers, 100 slates from Turin, 5 firlots of coal from Montrose. Also, 7 carriage horses to Montrose ; and lastly, to give one day's labour "of all his horses, carts and



servants for dunging the land at Fasque." And, at the expiry of the lease, twenty acres of infield had to be left in sown grass of one, two, or three years old. All the above items put together might probably amount to one-third of the present rent. The rental of the whole parish was only about £3500, or a similar proportion. In those days the braes of Balnakettle, like portions of other farms, were partly occupied by sub-tenants or crofters. The foundations of three or four of their homesteads are still traceable along the golf course on the hill slope. One of them was Skairhews. Its occupant flitted down the country, and depreciated the old place in the following plain terms:—

"It was as bad as ever man sat upon, but it had some good things about it. There was aye plenty of meat for man and beast all the days of the year, water in summer and fire in winter, with shelter all the airts the wind blew. Fire was not ill to get, plenty of sods and peats and nothing to pay for them as for coals here."

MARKETS. Mention has been made in a previous chapter that the right to hold a weekly market in Fettercairn was granted by James IV., in 1504, and that Earl Middleton obtained a renewal of the grant. These markets were originally held on the ground now occupied by the Public School and its playground, which in former days was known as the Market Park, where cattle, sheep, &c., were sold. But coming down to a more recent date, hiring markets were held regularly in the village at the terms of Whitsunday and Martinmas. The main object of course was servant-feeing, but these days were observed as general holidays in the parish. Less than forty years ago the village street and square used to be lined with stalls containing sweets and all sorts of wares, all the way from the bridge up to the cross. Each "Jock" was expected to treat his own special "Jean," and many others besides, on market-day. It was an event to which school children looked forward with

great delight, especially to the Whitsunday market, which was the more important; and on the day preceding that great event, one could hear the village bairns singing:—

“The cocks are a’ crawin’, and the hens are a’ layin’,  
For the morn’s the merry, merry market day.”

A few cattle used to appear for sale, huddled together in small groups to the east of the cross; and near the cross itself were exposed for sale a few tubs, butter-kits and milk-cogues, made by David Hughes, the worthy and well-skilled carpenter, who every year at Yule generously provided a supply of teetotums for the youth of the village. In the throng of the market cheap Johns jabbered about their wares, and usually drove a roaring trade; and occasionally could be seen some of the light-fingered fraternity, who affected to drop half-crowns into a purse and induce unwary young ploughmen, rendered somewhat sportive by a dram or two at the Forbes Arms or the Eagle Inn, to make bold bids, to their ultimate loss. But these scenes are now no more. The Fettercairn markets are dead and gone for more than thirty years, and soon will be altogether forgotten. An anecdote, supplied to Dean Ramsay by the Rev. Mr M’Clure, illustrating the cleverness of a boy waiting to be hired at one of the last Fettercairn markets, may fittingly close this chapter:—

The boy was asked by a spruce farmer if he wished to be engaged. “Ou ay,” said the youth. “Wha was your last maister?” was the next question. “Oh, yonder him,” said the boy; and he agreed to wait where he stood with some other youths till the enquirer should return from examination of his late employer. The former returned and accosted the boy. “Weel, lathie, I’ve been speerin’ about ye, an’ I’m to tak’ ye.” “Ou ay,” was the prompt reply, “an’ I’ve been speerin’ about you tae, an’ I’m nae gaen!”

## CHAPTER XXXVII.

## PLACE-NAMES.

THE aggregate number of farms, crofts and homesteads, old and new, in the parish was stated in chapter II. to be 114. Of that number only about 76 are now inhabited—the remaining 38, or one-third of the whole, are old and extinct homesteads, of which in many cases no trace remains other than their names, as recorded in the Parish Registers, and in the landowners' estate papers. To not a few of them it is now impossible to assign their respective localities. The place-names of the parish are very nearly one half wholly or partly Celtic, and one half purely Saxon: some three or four of the latter are new names of habitations recently founded. Places were originally named not indiscriminately, but with due regard to some peculiarity or leading feature of the locality. Down to a time not very remote, Gaelic was the universal language of the people, and their homesteads stood on the high and dry spots where the soil was good, with natural drainage and easy cultivation. This explains the reason why the names of all such localities, as well as of the farms and holdings on the hill slopes, are nearly all Celtic. Along the braes and higher grounds of the parish which, in ancient times, were the thickly populated parts, we find many of the names beginning with the prefix *Bal*, a home or town, as Balbegno, Balnakettle, Balfour, &c. And



others with *Drum*, a ridge, as Drumhendry, and *Arn*, tilled land, as Arnhall, &c.

The low-lying, wet and marshy lands were left by the Celts to be drained and improved by the generations that followed and ceased to speak the old language; so that new homes and holdings on these lands received names purely Saxon, as Boarstone, Causewayend, Moss-side, Nethermill; or Scotch, as Meikleha', Rashiemyres, Reekit-lane, &c. The names of places recently founded are Mossbank, Primrosehill, and Westburn. Not a few place-names on the improved lands of the parish have either Celtic prefixes or postfixes, as *Bog*, a marsh, in Bogmuir and Blairbog; *Cairn*, a heap, in Cairngreen; *Craig*, a rock, in Craighill; *Crichie*, clayey, in Crichieburn; *Hare*, a landsend, in Harestone; *Srath* or *Strath*, a valley, in Meiklestrath and Littlestrath.

A complete list of the parish place-names need not be given here; those of purely Saxon etymology may be omitted. The rest being of Celtic origin are mostly those with the same meanings as given by Surgeon-General W.G. Don, with the help of the writer, in his "Archæological Notes," recently published, and run as follows:—

ARNHALL—*Ar*, tilled land; *alla*, high, or *alluidh*, pleasant. Or from *arn*, alder, and *hall* (Saxon).

BALBEGNO—*Bal*, town; *beg*, little; *no* or *noth*, watery place (anciently, Balbegnoth).

BALMAIN—*Bal*, town; *main* or *meadhon*, middle. The mid-town between Balbegno and Esslie.

BALFOUR—*Bal*, town; *fuar*, cold or watery.

BALNAKETTLE—*Bal*, town; *na*, of; *kettle*, den; or *cèit*, sunny, with *goll*, gorge. Old crofts on Balnakettle were, CRAIGIELEITH—*Craig*, a rock (*i.e.*, diminutive); *lei*, water. SKAIRHUGHES—*Skeir*, rocky hill; *ginbhas*, fir-wood. SKAIRRUIDS—*Skeir*, with *roids*, bog-myrtle. STRANOSSEN—*Srath*, a valley; *an oiseinn*, of the corner; and the hill above, BANNOCK—*Bonnach*, circular or bonnet flat.

BARNA, anciently Ballernoch—town on the eminence.

BILBO, now Toghias cottages—*Bil*, border ; *bo* or *both*, dwelling.

BOGENDOLLO—*Bog*, marsh ; *an*, of ; *du-loch*, black lake. Old name, Blacklatch—*latch*, a mire.

BONHARY—*Bo* or *both*, dwelling ; *airidh*, green spot on the hill.

CAPO—*Ceap*, projecting ; *o* or *och* (auch), field. Compare Keppoeh, Inverness.

CRAIGNISTON—*Craig*, rock ; *innis*, island ; and town—Mains of Craigniston, the upper part of Coldstream farm.

DALALLY—*Dal*, field ; *alluidh*, high or pleasant.

DALLADIES—*Dal*, with *leithid aighis*, terraces. The farm of terraced fields.

DISCLUNE—*Deis*, south ; *cluain*, green. Compare Clunie.

DENSTRATH—*Dun*, hill ; *strath*, valley.

DRUMHENDRY, corruption of the old name DRUMRY—*Drum*, a ridge, and *ruighe*, extended high ground.

ESSLIE—*Ais*, elevated site ; *lighe*, water. The height overlooking the old lake.

FASQUE (formerly Faskie)—*Fasga*, shelter ; *dubh*, black or dark. Compare Fascally, the wooded shelter.

FLATNADRIECH—*Plat*, plot ; *na-driech*, of the dark or shaded place.

GARROL OR GARRON (the hill above Fasque)—*Garbh*, rough ; *meall*, hill, or *dun*, fortified hill. The first is the older name, and perhaps more correct than Garron as now called.

GOURDON—*Garadh*, garden ; *dun*, eminence.

INCH—*Innis*, island ; the high ground in the surrounding bog.

LEITH (part of the village)—*Leehe*, water. Compare Leith, Drum-lithie, &c.

MONDUFF (hill above Thainston)—*Monadh*, hill ; *dubh*, dark.

STANKEYE—*Stang*, ditch or water hollow ; *duibhe*, black.

STEELSTRATH—*Steall*, stream ; *srath*, valley of outlet drainage.

TARRYWINNOX (at West Woodton)—*winnox*, windows ; hollows in the hill through which the sun shone when low in winter.

THORNYHILL—*Torrainalluidh* ; *Torrain*, hillocks ; *alluidh*, pleasant.

TILLYFOUNTAIN (now Caldecotes)—*Tilly*, eminence ; *fountain* for *pundainn*, pointing place of cattle strayed from Fasque.

TILLYTOGHILLS—*Tilly*, eminence ; *taobh*, side ; *goull*, gully. The homestead was originally high up on the east side of the hill.

WHINS, for “Quainzie” in the old Records ; either from *cuinge*, narrowness (the narrowing lands), or *chuineas*, whins or furze.

## CHAPTER XXXVIII.

## ANECDOTES OF FETTERCAIRN WORTHIES.

THERE is perhaps no part of Scotland where there is a keener perception of humour amongst not only the peasantry, but all ranks and conditions, than in the Mearns. Dean Ramsay gathered many of his best stories and illustrations of Scottish character from the immediate neighbourhood of Fettercairn; and Mr Inglis, the author of a more recently published book, has added to the collection of the famous Dean a number of the most amusing anecdotes pertaining to the same countryside. The proverbial surgical operation, supposed to be necessary for the successful entrance of a joke into a Scotsman's head, does not apply here. The humour is unconscious in many cases, but that only goes to show that it is part of the typical "Man of the Mearns." It is a rare thing to find a Mearns man, in any sphere of life, who cannot see the point of a joke; and probably more of the humorous Scottish anecdotes now in print have originated in this district than in any other part of Scotland. The following, so far as the writer is aware, have not appeared before, and they pertain to Fettercairn and neighbourhood.

An amusing tale is told of John Gove at Phesdo. It was the custom on the occasion of any joyous event, such as a marriage, to keep up a running fire of a gun or cannon, which is one of the Scotch customs traceable to the French.



A marriage came off in John's family, and he being major-domo superintended the *feu de joie*. A heavy charge had been well rammed home, so as to make an extra loud report, and every one, including John himself, got well out of the way whilst the slow match was burning. There was a terrific explosion, and on returning quickly to reload and have another, nothing was to be seen but shattered fragments of a once gun. John's only remark was, "Odd, that's queer; I never saw ma old gun do the like o' that afore."

James Fearn was known for his ready wit. One dark stormy evening James, "o'er a' the ills o' life victorious," was trying to make his way home doon the Bog road. He had only a mile and a half to go, but the sharp turns and especially the narrowness of the road bothered him. For a time the hedges kept him on the track, but unfortunately in making a wild sheer to the right he happened to pass through an open gate into a field. Here he had scope enough, and he soon lost himself in the darkness. When daylight broke he found the spot was a familiar one, and climbing the fence made straight for home. His spouse, who had probably been "nursing her wrath," had by this time come out to look for him, and when they met angrily exclaimed, "Preserve me, man, hae ye been there oot a' nicht?"—"No, wumman, I was in a park," was his snappish answer.

Rob Jack, another character, who could not have conscientiously called himself a Good Templar, occasionally found himself in charge of a preserver of the peace. He had gone one day to the "ancient city," not many miles off. In those days the shutters of the shop windows were hung on hinges. They were swung back to the wall when open, and made fast by a "sneck." A gust of wind undid a fastening as Rob was staggering along, and the hook of the shutter caught the collar of his coat. He fancied he

recognised a familiar grip, and uttering a strong expletive he resignedly enquired, "At fa's instance noo?"

James Coullie, a millwright, better known as "fanners," was an amusing character. He and an ass, his faithful beast of burden, lived in the same cottage, with only a partition, which did not reach the ceiling, to separate them. One unlucky evening the cottage took fire and was burnt to the ground. James escaped but not the ass, and the late lamented was replaced by another. Some time after the catastrophe, which, as may be supposed, formed a topic of conversation for many a day, James was hailed by the genial Laird of Fasque, "Hullo, Coullie, is that the ass that was burned?"—"Eh na, Sir Alexander, it's nae the same ass ava." Strange to say the simple-minded man's reply caught on and became a sort of byword in the district.

Another oft-repeated byword arose from the following anecdote. On the ground now occupied by the village Hall stood a small house occupied by a "whip the cat" tailor who rejoiced in the name of Niddrie. His great boast was that he had never misfitted any of his customers. One day he had a wedding coat on hand, and some of his cronies suggested that it was only seemly that to prevent shrinking they should duly moisten a wedding garment, so they proceeded to the inn and had a good time. Tailor Niddrie returned to his labours, but somehow the chalk lines would not come out straight. His cronies chaffed him, suggesting an ugly misfit for once, but he replied, "Ou aye, maybe, but caulk's nae shears."

John Blank was a mason to trade and a great toper. One day when in his cups he was lying on a sofa in one of the rooms of the village inn, apparently asleep. Two customers dropped in to have a drink; one ordered a glass of beer, the other some lemonade. The sound of the lemonade cork awakened the sleeper, and rising up he stammered out, "Bring in a bottle o' lemonade to me too,

lassie, an' lat's get begun on a new found." The same character in ordering his dram used invariably to ask for "a gill o' the very *worst*, for the *best* was just a penny lost."

The following tale is illustrative of the ready wit of a different type of man, viz., the Scottish laird. No names need be given, but the story is as follows: A tenant farmer received a visit one day from the laird and his lady, and offered apologies once and again that there was not a single drop in the bottle by which he might show his hospitality. The visitors on taking their leave were kindly warned to be careful of the steps down from the front door, as there was no hand-rail; and seizing what he thought was a most favourable opportunity, the farmer pointed out that the steps were dangerous, and that he (the laird) might be so good as to order a rail to be put up. "They're quite safe, so long as you keep your bottle dry," was the witty reply.

Francis Gove was one of a family of brothers who resided at Haughhead and Woodside sixty or seventy years ago, and was probably present on the festive occasion mentioned above when his brother John's cannon burst at Phesdo. Being one day in conversation with a neighbouring gentleman he told him in a most matter-of-fact way, "Maister Fawns, I tell ye I havena gotten a richt slockenin' o' drink since the day o' ma brither Rob's funeral." Possibly he may be the originator of the story of the man who said "he couldna mind whether it was a bridal or a burial, but it was a very fine affair."

Lizzie Gove, Landsend, a relation of the above, was a very tall woman, about six feet in height. She turned up at the general store in the village one day to buy garden seeds, and amongst other things asked for peas, "no like those I got last year, which grew twice as high as mysel' and then turned down a bit." Another Lizzie, who shall be nameless, on hearing of the death of yet another



nameless Lizzie, remarked that "The neebours will noo get peace that the auld thievin' banes o' her are at rest."

The late Sir John S. Forbes of Fettercairn had a keen appreciation of humour and used to tell a good story, many of which he picked up in the course of his kindly visits at the houses of the humbler classes. Calling one day on Eppie Bard, the widow of an old soldier, he enquired if her late husband had any *old firearms*. "Ou aye, Sir John, but they're no muckle worth; I've just an auld spindle for a poker, and the mou' o' an auld spade for a shuffel."

Willie Clark was an old character who lived at the "Townhead" and eked out a livelihood by doing odd jobs for very little pay. He was of a cheerful and contented disposition, and frequently remarked that "he had nae count and nae care, come evenin' come saxpence." He had never taken a wife, having carefully counted the cost. "It's very fine to get a wife to mak' your parritch, but then for that she sups the half o' them." Some time before he died a local evangelist called on a Sunday afternoon to read the Bible and pray with him. Next day the lady who sent to him his daily can of soup was told that a "gey guid man cam' to read to me, but I told him I was na' come to that wi'd yet. Dr. Forman did me far mair guid; he left me a saxpence i' ma snuff-mull. Ou aye, I'm a heap better." Some of these old characters seemed to think that they were intended to live for ever, as in the case of a contemporary of Willie Clark's, an old crofter named *Walter Strachan*, who, at the age of upwards of ninety, asked the local tailor to measure him for a suit of clothes. He wanted something that would serve a few years for Sunday and then come in for "ilka day." This same Walter walked several miles to church one stormy Sunday when the roads were blocked with snow. Only a handful of village people had ventured out that day, and

the story goes that shortly afterwards the minister seized an opportunity of shaking hands and commending the old man for his religious zeal. "To tell ye the truth, minister," said he, "I had run oot o' snuff, and I beit to come to the village to try and get a puckle, and as I was here at ony rate I thocht I would just come to the kirk by the bye. But I'm no against gaen' to the kirk."

Johnnie Mathers, an old crofter residing in the south end of the parish, came to Mr Foote, who was then minister, announcing that his daughter was to be married. Mr Foote, knowing that the woman had passed the first blush of youth, replied, "I'm glad to hear it, John; she'll make a good sensible wife, and he's a fortunate man who gets her."—"Well," says John, "I dinna ken about that. She's curst cankered, wonnerfu' warldly, and some religious too; but, sir, the spinnin' wheel is her salvation. For a' that, I'll gie her a braw marriage gown wi' several threeds o' silk in til't."

Another crofter who was regarded as a "character" was Johnnie Webster. He and his guidwife, Nell Dunn, resided at Landsend. Johnnie was a cobbler to trade; and on being asked why he had given up a good business for the uncertainty of a small croft, replied, "When I tak' a rest the awls tak' a rest too; but nowadays tho' I gang to sleep the corn keeps growin'." The Rev. Dr. Leslie of Fordoun, whose church Johnnie attended, one day intimated his parochial visitation from the pulpit, and having observed that Johnnie was not in his pew, sent him a note on the following day to let him know the day of his proposed visit to Landsend. On his arrival he found John at the plough; and a little nettled, no doubt, at the apparent lack of courtesy, the minister enquired, "Did you not get my letter, John?"—"Deed did I; a letter cam' but I couldna read it, an' Nell Dunn, ma wife, couldna read it, an' I believe the *deil himsel'* couldna read it." Then

turning to his horse, "Come 'awther, Duncan." When quite an old man John had got a piecework job at thinning turnips from a farm overseer at Balbegno. His work did not quite satisfy his employer, so he was requested to be more careful. The warning had no effect, and the overseer said to him, "Webster, you'd better shouther your hou and tak' the road." "I'll go, Mr —; but ye've nae business hoo I carry ma hou."

The next two anecdotes illustrate three different phases of character, and will close the chapter.

Jeanie Silver, a simple-minded but good creature, resided alone in one end of a cottar house at Muttonhole of Balbegno; and in her later years, during the early fifties, depended wholly upon Parish relief and charity. Being very fond of finery, her wealthier neighbours supplied her with cast-off articles of dress and millinery, which she utilised after a style of her own, and on Sundays appeared at church in headgear and feathers that attracted much attention. Dr. Robertson, the medical officer of the parish, called one day to see Jeanie, and in course of conversation remarked that her cat was a very nice animal. "Ou aye, sir," she replied, "it's a guidless ill-less beastie juist like yersel'."

Nancy — and Mary — lived but and ben from each other in the same house at the Townhead. The former was robust and energetic, with great force of character; the latter was hypochondriac and peevish, and by making the most of her ailments secured constant attention and charity from philanthropic neighbours. A lady who called at the door was met by the shrewd Nancy, and on enquiring "How's poor Mary to-day?"—"Deed I canna tell ye; she aye tells sic a lang story, folk that have their wark to mind have nae time to speir. But ye may be sure she's aye *ill*, and sometimes *waur*; sae's a poor croakin' w'reng (wren)." Nancy, good old soul, worked till she could work no



longer, and ultimately died in the poorhouse. At Mary's death there was found hoarded away in bags, stocking feet, and purses of all sorts, about one hundred and fifty pounds, mostly in silver coins of all dates from the time of Geo. III. The discovery of this hoard came as a surprise to Mary's neighbours, and caused some chagrin to the benevolent and the charitable, as well as a nine-days' subject of talk and gossip to the people of Fettercairn.

This History may be appropriately concluded by quoting, from Goldsmith's address to "Sweet Auburn," a few lines slightly altered to apply to Fettercairn, and thus express the writer's feelings :—

Sweet Howe of Mearns and lovely Fettercairn !  
 Where health and plenty cheer the labouring swain,  
 Where smiling spring its earliest visit pays,  
 And parting summer's lingering bloom delays ;

How often have I paused on every charm,  
 The sheltered cot, the cultivated farm,  
 The never-failing brook, the busy mill,  
 The decent church that tops the neighbouring hill ;

To me more dear, congenial to my heart,  
 Thy native charms, than all the gloss of art.











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